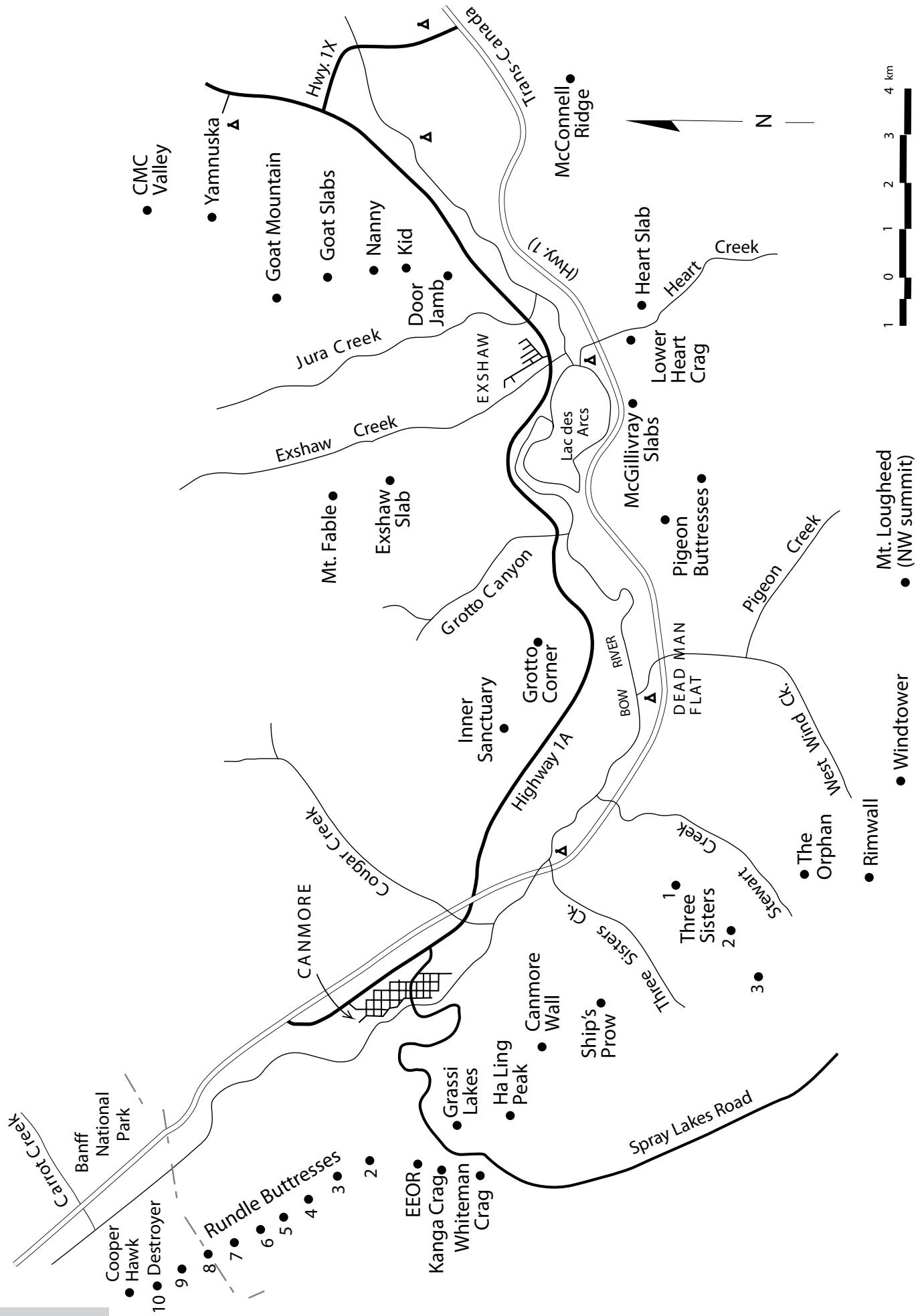


RMB Climbing Guide

# BONN Valley Rock

Chris Perry & Joe Josephson



# INTRODUCTION

The area covered by this guidebook extends from Yamnuska and CMC Valley on the eastern mountain front past the town of Canmore to just beyond the Banff Park boundary. This corridor contains the highest concentration of developed limestone cliffs in the Canadian Rockies. Sport climbing areas are described in a separate guidebook, *Sport Climbs in the Canadian Rockies* by John Martin and Jon Jones. The two guidebooks are intended to complement each other with a minimum of overlap although some sport climbs are included here to completely cover certain areas and to avoid confusion.

## Orientation

The map opposite shows the major climbing areas. Two highways run through the Bow Valley: the two-lane Highway 1A on the north side of the Bow River and the four-lane Trans-Canada Highway on the south side. A bridge across the river at Seebe near Yamnuska (Highway 1X) provides the only access between the roads until they converge at the town of Canmore. Most cliffs are reached from these highways or from Canmore. Areas such as Windtower, Rimwall and The Orphan are accessed from the Spray Lakes road, which leads south and east from Canmore to the Kananaskis Valley. The crags are described in clockwise sequence starting with Goat Mountain, Yamnuska and CMC Valley and moving up the south side of the Bow Valley almost to Banff and then back along the north side.

## Limitations of Guidebook Information

This is not a standard disclaimer but a sincere effort on the authors' part to explain the difficulties in collecting and presenting guidebook information. The hope is that readers will develop an appreciation for how this information may be misleading and how cautiously it should be interpreted. The authors have climbed many of the routes described in this guidebook and a huge effort has been made to present them in a clear and accurate way using written descriptions, topos and photographs. Readers, however, should consider the following true quotes. "I have trouble telling my left from my right" (Joe Josephson) and "I used to have a good memory, I think" (Chris Perry). There are bound to be errors in this guidebook and the information should be interpreted using common sense and good climbing judgement. Unfortunately, the latter comes from experience that, as we know, "comes from poor judgement," so be careful out there, many of these are serious climbs. Some of the routes we have not done ourselves and have had to rely on information from other people. We did consider compiling a graded list of worst contributors but instead settled on the acknowledgements (alphabetical order). Another serious factor is that things change. Bolts and pitons are added and removed and belay locations are changed (see notes on retrofitting below). Topos have been included in this guidebook to complement the written information but they should not be interpreted too rigidly. They have not been drawn to scale and are just as subject to error as written information. They should not be treated like road maps and if in doubt, climbers should rely more on the written material and of course, personal judgement.

## Acknowledgements

This guidebook is based on the original Bow Valley Rock, much of which was written by John

Martin. Some sections needed only minor revision and John's contribution is again acknowledged. Thanks are also due to Geoff Powter for writing the historical section. This difficult task of balancing accuracy and egos was accomplished with great diplomacy and his account is an excellent record of past contributions and the evolution of climbing styles. Many others have contributed to the production of this guidebook and their assistance is gratefully acknowledged. With apologies for any omissions, the authors sincerely thank the following:

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Special thanks are due to Kelly McLeod for his excellent topos, on which some of ours are based; to Trevor Jones, Marc Piche and Brian Spear for their encouragement and belief that one day the project would be finished; to Jack Firth, Gloria Folden and Trevor Jones for agreeing to climb obscure routes that they otherwise would have avoided; to Raphael Slawinski for having climbed almost everything and remembering the details; and to everyone at Rocky Mountain Books for their patience and assistance and for dealing with the numerous frustrated enquiries. To the climbing world in general, you all owe us a beer! This has been a protracted, thankless, grossly underpaid mega-project for more than three years. At last we can go climbing wherever we choose, without cameras, notes, pens and old topos. We'll miss meeting new people, the many pub discussions and the staff at Rocky Mountain Books but next time it's someone else's turn!

## The Climbing

All the climbs in this guidebook are on limestone that varies considerably in quality. Although there are pitches of superb gray rock on many climbs, there are almost always loose sections that require skill and care to climb safely. Routefinding can also be problematic and in some cases the rock is compact and good natural protection is difficult or impossible to arrange. Nonetheless, many of the climbs offer a unique and rewarding experience for those who take the trouble to adapt and develop the necessary skills. The thrill of cliffs like Yamnuska comes from dealing with the steep and the tenuous—so don't curse it, just figure it out.

Most rock climbers begin on sport climbs and the transition to multi-pitch gear routes on big crags is one that should be made very cautiously. There are many skills besides technical ability that need to be developed. As noted below, gear placement is best learned on more user-friendly rock such as Lake Louise quartzite or Squamish granite. A recent article in Climbing magazine suggested that regardless of technical ability on sport climbs, begin climbing traditional routes at the 5.6/5.7 level. Also, don't let technical ability allow you to climb off-route into dangerous situations. A 5.8 traditional climb may be an undergraded 5.9 or even 5.10a but it will not be 5.10c or harder! If things get overly difficult reread the guidebook (hopefully it's correct) and perhaps you should have stepped left around a rib or switched to another crack line? In-place gear with a sling on it is often off-route, otherwise there would not be a sling! There are a number of excellent, multi-pitch sport climbs in the guidebook area that are useful in making this transition. Also, the longer semi-sport routes on Kid Goat are well worth doing and have a technical difficulty in the 5.6 to 5.8 range. They are good climbs to do before attempting serious routes like the Northeast Face of Ha Ling Peak, which at 5.6 continues to attract woefully inexperienced parties. A climb such as Forbidden Corner on Yamnuska really is only 5.8 but it is very exposed, run-out in places, has difficult routefinding, and is guaranteed to scare the hell

out of you. It's a great route and you can probably do the moves easily but climb it when you are sure of your abilities.

## Weather

The weather and climbing season in the Bow Corridor are impossible to define. The chinook phenomenon can change winter temperatures from  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+15^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a few hours and skiing days become potential climbing days. During some summers, however, there may be only a few good weeks or even days on the bigger, north-facing cliffs. From early May until late September it is usually possible to find a suitable crag as there is such a good range of climbs to choose from. Yamnuska has the longest climbing season owing to its position at the eastern edge of the mountain front and its south-facing aspect. It is often sitting in the only pocket of decent weather while clouds hang in the valley farther west. Major climbs have been done on the face in all months of the year although rarely in December and January. Yamnuska may actually be too hot in mid summer but Ha Ling Peak and its north-facing neighbours can provide the necessary shade. Thunderstorms can be a serious problem during the summer months on Yamnuska and the higher cliffs and a check of the weather forecast is recommended.

## Regulations/Registration

Except for a few climbs inside the Banff National Park boundary, none of the climbing areas is subject to regulation and no registration is required. There is a voluntary registration box at Yamnuska but it is not checked on a regular basis and serves only to locate climbers in an emergency. There are regulations concerning the development of bolted climbs at new areas in Kananakis Country and these are explained in the Sport Climbs guidebook.

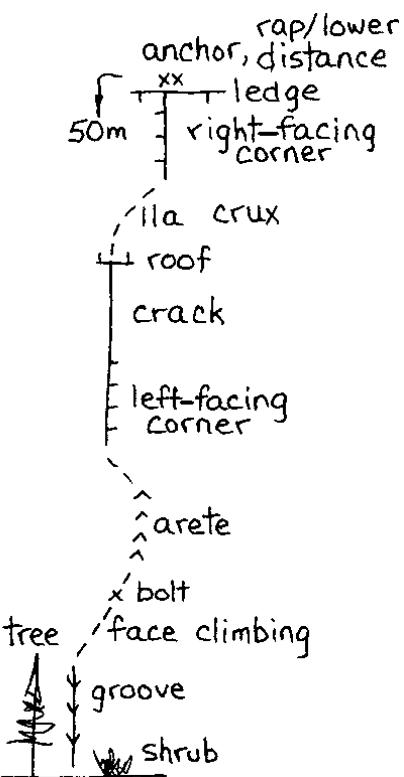
## Topos

The symbol "x" is used to denote a fixed piton or bolt. When most of the fixed gear is bolts, the symbol "x" is used for bolts and "fp" for fixed pitons. When most of the fixed gear is pitons, the symbol "x" is used for pitons and "x" with a circle around it is used for bolts. In the latter situation, the convention used is marked on the topo.

The standard topo symbols for inside corners (arrows pointing down) and outside corners (arrows pointing up) are easily confused and wherever possible inside corners are marked as left-facing or right-facing. Outside corners are normally marked "edge," "arete," "rib" or "ridge."

## The Rock

Nearly all the climbs lie on two great cliff-forming formations: the Eldon (Yamnuska, CMC Valley and Goat Mountain) and the Palliser (Windtower through to Mount Rundle on the south side of the valley). A few crags of Livingstone Formation limestone have also been developed. For the most part, the type of limestone appears to have only a limited influence on rock quality and at their best each offers superb climbing on impeccable rock while at their worst each is terrible. The biggest single factor in determining rock quality seems to be orientation. Cliffs that face south or east are more weathered by meltwater and often have



rough, textured gray rock that gives the best climbing. Yellow rock is steeper, less weathered and often loose. All the major climbing cliffs on the south side of the Bow Valley are Palliser Formation limestone. Interestingly, this formation appears to have three major bands, the lower of which is generally very loose, but the upper two are much better. This is particularly pronounced on Canmore Wall but is also evident on Ship's Prow, Second Sister and to a lesser extent on Ha Ling Peak. In some cases, development has been delayed as would-be first ascensionists were turned back by the sometimes appalling lower band. The highest of the three bands on Ship's Prow and Canmore Wall, for example, has some amazingly good rock. The Rocky Mountains were formed by the folding and faulting of sedimentary rocks as continental plates collided and this too plays a complex role. On Yamnuska, made of Eldon Formation limestone, the character of the climbing appears to have been influenced by the displacement of the cliff by the McConnell Fault. As the cliff was pushed over younger rocks and bent upward in the middle, a series of vertical cracks opened up, like a fan. The cliff certainly has more vertical crack lines than any other and this contributes to its unique character. The orientation of bedding planes is sometimes a factor. The down-sloping strata on the south side of Grotto Mountain, for example, produce cliffs with sloping holds and short overhanging walls where the rock has fractured away. For detailed geological information, readers are referred to Ben Gadd's book *Handbook of the Canadian Rockies* and its bibliography.

## RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

**Helmets:** Helmets are not commonly worn on sport climbs as the loose rock has been cleaned away and the protection is reliable and closely spaced. The use of helmets on traditional climbs, however, is strongly recommended. Generally, the climbs have received little cleaning and given the nature of the local rock, the protection provided by a helmet is essential. Rockfall is obviously a concern when parties are above but may also occur because of snowmelt, wind or animal movement. Another good reason for using a helmet on traditional climbs is to minimize the risk of head injury owing to a fall. Since the protection is more widely spaced, less reliable and often to one side, falls are much longer than on sport climbs and may involve long pendulums. In some cases, rockfall is also a concern on the approach trail, for example, below the Northeast Face route on Ha Ling Peak and below Grillmair Chimneys on Yamnuska. In both cases, the trail passes unseen below the climbs and climber-generated rockfall poses a significant risk. We wear helmets at both these locations and many others!

**Ropes:** Most climbs have been established so that the pitches are 50 m or less and this rope length is sufficient unless the description shows otherwise. It is strongly recommended that two ropes be used on long, multi-pitch climbs. This lessens rope-drag on complex pitches but more importantly, it allows retreat owing to storms, time constraints, accidents, etc. It is virtually impossible to retreat from many climbs using a single rope as the rock is often too blank to set intermediate anchors. Although it is often not realized, the seriousness of a route is dramatically increased if only one rope is taken.

**Gear:** The local limestone does not take gear well and considerable experience is necessary to adequately protect many of the climbs. This is best obtained elsewhere at locations such as Lake Louise with its excellent quartzite, or granite areas like Squamish near Vancouver. A large armoury of protection devices is recommended and on the less frequented climbs, a piton hammer with a thin pick is extremely useful for cleaning placements.

**Pitons:** Pitons were used extensively to establish most of the older climbs and many were

not left in place. Nowadays, they are often not required as protection devices have improved considerably and cleaning has provided better gear placements. Some cliffs, however, have inherently compact rock and pitons are necessary to supplement natural protection. If pitons are required, this is noted either in the individual route description or the introduction to the climbing area. In some cases the authors can only guess at the usefulness of pitons and in cases of doubt, a small selection should be carried. The vintage of a climb and its location are often useful guides. Pitons greatly facilitate retreat and many local climbers always carry them on the longer, less popular climbs. Only small piton sizes are required and a selection of the following is recommended: knifeblades (Bugaboos) in various lengths, thin Lost Arrows, thin Z-section pitons (Leepers) and small angles (to 3/4 inch). A hammer with a long pick is useful for cleaning gear placements.

## FIXED PROTECTION

Pitons: In-place pitons should always be viewed with caution. Although they can have considerable holding power, pitons are far less reliable than bolts. Inexperienced climbers tend to equate the two and this has contributed to a number of serious accidents. For example, two climbers were killed on the Northeast Face route on Ha Ling Peak when the leader fell and the second was belayed to a single piton rather than a nearby bolted station. Both had been regarded as equivalent. To the unwary, fixed pitons give a false sense of security and good back-up gear should always be placed whenever possible. In particular, blade pitons placed in vertical cracks often have limited holding power and the length of the blade is normally unknown (the heads of 1 inch and 3 inch Bugaboo blades are virtually identical). A piton hammer and a fair degree of experience are necessary to assess the holding power of pitons and in the absence of either, a piton should be regarded only as a supplement to properly placed gear. Pitons loosen significantly over the years because of freeze/thaw action or corrosion and the authors have rappelled from perfectly good pitons that a few years later could be removed by hand! In the past, many climbers carried piton hammers and in-place pitons could be tested and reset and consequently were more reliable. The removal of in-place pitons, however, is strongly discouraged as they indicate the correct route (usually!) and are certainly better than nothing.

Bolts: A number of different types of bolts may be encountered on the local rock. Top of the list are 3/8 inch Hilti bolts, which have been widely used since the early 1990s and have been extensively tested on sport climbs. Their embedment length is normally around 6 cm (2.5 inch) or more and they are very strong and reliable. Self-drilling 5/16 inch expansion bolts are common on many of the older climbs and are still used in some situations owing to their light weight and rapid placement. They have hexagonal retaining bolts or allen cap screws and the hangers are frequently made of aluminum. The older, square-cut hangers have small carabiner holes (1/2 inch) but the larger, angled ones fit most sizes. Both the hangers and the retaining bolts have high breaking loads (about 4000 pounds) and overall the system is very reliable when well-placed in good rock. There are no known failures locally of these bolts but some are now quite old and may be weakened by corrosion. Interestingly, the alkaline environment in limestone seems to inhibit corrosion and the old cap screws or retaining bolts can often be removed and replaced (small vice-grip useful). Occasionally, 1/4 inch compression bolts are encountered (sheet steel hanger secured by a nut). These have poor holding power, as do the rivets and Stubai bolts found on old aid routes like Yellow Edge and CMC Wall.

Retrofitting and new routes: With the proliferation of sport climbing and its closely spaced,

bomb-proof protection, there is a trend to transfer these expectations to all rock climbs. Routes that have been climbed safely for years by competent parties may be labelled as "dangerous" and said to need "fixing-up" by the addition of bolts. What is not appreciated in this thinking is that rock climbing is a continuum from sport climbs that focus on pure technical difficulty, to big, multi-pitch routes that encompass a whole range of skills. To equip all rock climbs to sport climbing standards is to deny that these other styles of climbing exist. The reason bolts were not used on the older climbs was that they were considered to be "cheating," a way of bringing a climb down to your own level or, to quote Reinhold Messner, like "carrying your courage in your rucksack." These values, however, impeded development, kept the best rock out of bounds, and denied us all the pure technical focus of sport climbing. The general consensus now is that all types of climbing have their place but none should interfere or encroach on the others.

Having said the above, it is now generally agreed that retrofitting of older climbs is sometimes justified. The addition of bolts to belays is widely accepted and the time-consuming placement of pitons and gear is considered a waste of good climbing time. In some instances the belay has been moved during retrofitting and this has caused confusion. Examples are the first station on Gollum Grooves, which is now 10 m higher, and the belay below the long roof on the Northeast Face route on Ha Ling Peak where it is now necessary to move up and right instead of left to find the easiest break through the roofs. Obviously, it is preferable to keep the location the same although bolts sometimes allow better ledges to be used. This is up to the judgement of the retrofitters and hopefully changes can be recorded in the web-site information. In-place pitons are unreliable, especially as piton hammers are now not commonly carried. The practise of testing and resetting pitons also ultimately damages the pitons and the placements. A recent trend has been to replace key pitons with bolts and this is gaining acceptance. Normally, it is felt the first ascent party should be consulted and extra bolts should not be added that change the character of the climb. This latter point, however, is debatable since on areas such as Kid Goat climbs have sometimes been rerouted and much better use made of the rock. Overall, it is a matter of personal judgement and the authors do not presume to give guidelines. Any recommendations made in the text regarding the addition of bolts to certain climbs is made at the suggestion of the first ascent party. The addition of new routes is another area for personal interpretation. Generally, anything goes—it's your route with your name on it! However, the use of bolts next to perfectly good gear placements is widely condemned, as is the addition of climbs that detract from existing ones—for example, bolt-protected routes next to run-out classics. Climbers will always do as they please though and no attempt is intended here to interfere with the evolutionary process.

### Related Guidebooks

The following guidebooks are written for the local area and contain material that may be of interest. Also, rather than repeating information in this guide on camping, enjoying or avoiding the wildlife, ticks, etc., readers are referred to these other sources.

Sport Climbs in the Canadian Rockies by John Martin and Jon Jones.

Ghost Rock by Joe Josephson, Chris Perry and Andy Genereux.

Scrambles in the Canadian Rockies by Alan Kane.

Selected Alpine Climbs in the Canadian Rockies by Sean Dougherty.

Kananaskis Country Trail Guide by Gillean Daffern, Vol. 1 and 2.

Handbook of the Canadian Rockies by Ben Gadd.

## Website information

A website has been established by Rocky Mountain Books to collect and publish new route information and updated material. The address is [rmbooks.com](http://rmbooks.com). The site has an Outdoors Forum where comments and information may be placed by anyone, and Guide Updates where material collected from all sources is edited and organized as a supplement to the guidebook. Material may be submitted either via the Outdoors Forum or to the authors directly (c/o Rocky Mountain Books). Information will be posted promptly and with your cooperation we can keep the book current and make compilation of the next edition much easier. Updated material is available for Ghost Rock at the same site and for Sport Climbs at the TABVAR link by [strongholdclimbing.com](http://strongholdclimbing.com). Material is also being collected via the Outdoors Forum for Banff Rock, a guidebook covering the Banff to Lake Louise area including Castle Mountain. Raphael Slawinski has agreed to be a joint (or sole?) editor of the next Bow Valley Rock and condolences, material and encouragement may be provided via the site or Rocky Mountain Books.

# HISTORY BY GEOFF POWTER

As is the case with most climbing areas, the history of Bow Valley climbing has been a delicate dance between ethics, standards, personalities and technology. Each notable advance, dating right back to the first pure rock climb in the valley—the ascent of the First Sister by local pioneer Lawrence Grassi in 1925—has involved a very select group of climbers challenging current practises, envisioning new styles and turning to new gear to solve longstanding problems. At first glance, it is easy to believe that changes in Bow Valley climbing have been revolutionary rather than evolutionary, great leaps forward that have dramatically changed the sport. In print and in oral tradition, local history has been construed as one of dramatic—and often conflict-filled—radical change. But as appealing as this view might be, to some extent it is a misperception of the more complex, slow, evolutionary history of climbing here. There have been some dramatic jumps in standard and style, but it is important to realize virtually all of these “leaps forward” have been predicated on things that have more quietly gone before. This is particularly true of one of the central issues in our history—the use of fixed protection. The recorded history of the valley suggests bolts and pitons were once anathema, new climbs relying on fixed gear were great departures from tradition and the use of this gear brought people into conflict. While this is partially true, a more accurate telling of the history is that the change in fixed protection standards has involved a gradual creep toward what the collective of climbers wants. Even the most radical changes (especially the advent of top-down bolting) have been eventually absorbed into the local ethos and the conflicts more or less forgotten.

There is less debate about one of the strongest controlling factors in our history: the nature of the local rock. Some plain facts about Rockies’ limestone have sculpted our path: 1) the danger posed by the often poor-quality rock in the valley has kept the number of first ascensionists very low, with most climbers quite happy to stick to well-cleaned, easier grade routes; 2) there are a limited number of

natural lines and this has encouraged searches for other kinds of climbing and a subsequent turn to fixed gear; 3) much of the best rock in the valley is featureless and will not take small gear safely, so the most solid routes have either been heavily bolted or are dramatically run-out.

The effort to balance tradition and change has produced one other intriguing development: the preservation of a traditional ethos on Yamnuska while more varied styles have been seen on the other cliffs. Yam has always been the traditional heart of valley climbing, and so it is perhaps best to give its history first and then offer the story of the other crags in contrast to the Yamnuska narrative.

## Yamnuska

It is no surprise that much of the history of climbing in the Bow Valley has revolved around Yamnuska. The big yellow crown sits like a siren over the eastern gate to the mountains, and is an obvious goal for any climber approaching the range from that side. It has all the ingredients of the perfect primary crag: southern aspect to give a longer season and breed familiarity with the face; natural crack systems to facilitate early probes; quick access from Calgary and a position that plants the wall in a climber’s mind every time they drive by.

At the beginning of Yam’s history in the 1950s, local climbing was at a stalemate. After the ascent of the First Sister mentioned above, there was virtually no significant rock climbing happening, and there was a general feeling—fuelled by both technical and ethical limitations—that the “best climbs had been done.” Climbing at the time mostly entailed repeats of snow, ice and easy rock lines and Canadian standards were dropping quickly behind the rest of the world. A strong ethical prohibition of the era may have contributed to the stagnation in technical standards: the community considered it illegitimate to place protection. The thought of attacking the wall without gear kept climbers off Yam for years.

Any venture onto the great face clarifies the difficulty facing the potential first ascen-

sionists. Routes on Yam are as much about discovery as they are about solving technical problems, and this has meant that very few of the routes on the wall have been completed without multiple tries—in several cases climbs have taken more than one season's effort. The first attempt on the face would be a brave leap, one that none of the locals was willing to risk.

In 1951, three young Austrians arrived in the Rockies eager to climb and more than willing to step outside local rules. Yamnuska was the first mountain Leo Grillmair, Hans Gmoser and Franz Dopf saw in the new land, and more than 40 years later Gmoser still sparkles with the feel of the first ascent: "We had no plans of really going anywhere. Leo had brought a nylon utility rope with him, but we were only going to go up a little to see what it was like. We tied the rope around our chests, Leo in the front, me in the back, and Isobel Spreat, a young British girl, in the middle. Leo wore only crepe-soled street shoes, and by the time we were most of the way up the climb, they had huge holes right through to his socks. But he led the climb with no hesitation."

This first ascent, up the great gash in the centre of the face, now known as Grillmair Chimneys, followed the Canadian ethic of the day—not a single piece of protection was even carried by the team—but only because the trio hadn't planned on the climb, and couldn't buy the pitons they were comfortable using in Europe. Their achievement seems quite striking even now: it snowed intermittently through the day, the team faced a completely unknown wall, and, though only 5.5, the route was long, loose and intimidating. The ascent of Grillmair required the same key ingredient that every subsequent quantum leap on the wall would demand: a redefining of the possible. If climbers had stayed away from Yam because it looked unlikely, the door to a different, more challenging type of climbing was now open, and the standards on Yam would soon influence the understanding of the possible in other parts of the range.

The Austrians' greatest contribution, how-

ever, came on the route they called *Direttissima*—a classic Yamnuska mélange of face, cracks, chimneys and overhangs; loose in places, but generally solid; a devious line snaking around to break the weaknesses of the corner. The route, done in 1957 at a stiff 5.8, earned the distinguished label of being "one of the hardest routes in North America," and again raised the bar of standards in the Canadian Rockies.

The addiction of Yam, first fed by the Austrians, was mainlined by a growing group through the late 1950s and early 1960s. The period cracked open in 1957, with the ascent by a couple of Rockies' newcomers of Belfry, a 5.8 corner on the west end of the mountain. The style on Belfry was pure and gutsy, and the first ascensionists placed perhaps the first nuts ever used in North America. Most significantly, the route marked the arrival of Brian Greenwood, an immigrant Yorkshireman who soon became one of the dominant spirits of this mountain, and of much of the rest of Canadian Rockies' climbing as well.

From the ascent of Belfry in 1957 until 1975, Greenwood was involved in nearly every new route on Yamnuska. He was only one of the hard-core members of the Calgary Mountain Club (CMC), a group comprised primarily of immigrants who had come from a strong European climbing scene and found Canada still stuck in the past. The CMC quickly became the dominant force in local climbing and established its own way of doing things. Other than a few climbs snagged by marauding Americans, virtually all of the major rock, ice and mountain ascents in the area during the '60s and '70s were the work of the CMC.

After Belfry, Greenwood completed two other lines on Yam that still followed natural crack and corner lines, then turned to what he called the "second wave" of exploration—looking for the less obvious routes that also "might require artificial means." Corraling the Norwegian Jim Steen, Greenwood began the first probes at a route on the east end of the crag. At the high point of the first attempt, Greenwood proudly flagged the achievement

with a ratty, old shirt he had climbed in for years, and the climb was baptized The Red Shirt Route.

Native Canadians were conspicuously absent from Yam until 1962, when one of the strongest partnerships in the history of the mountain came on the scene. Don Vockeroth and Lloyd MacKay were a Mutt-and-Jeff routine, polar opposites physically and temperamentally. Vockeroth was a lanky 6'3" kid from the Alberta prairies, powerfully driven, who dreamed of becoming a guide like his hero Gaston Rebuffat. Vockeroth worked and worked at his climbing, and is remembered as the "boldest son-of-a-bitch ever" by many of his peers. MacKay, a 5'7" fireplug, was a bright, always positive, feisty lawyer who was equally facile in the climbing world as he was in the world of big money.

Vockeroth and MacKay emerged from nowhere, yet were quickly responsible for the two climbs that pushed standards a quantum leap forward. In 1964, with Greenwood, Vockeroth led the crux pitch of Missionary's Crack and later that year, he and MacKay teamed up on a line that had been passed over as going nowhere. Their Forbidden Corner has become the classic mid-grade route of Yam, a twisting, complex line with superb position and intimidating climbing. That the pair climbed the route with a rack of only six soft pitons made the ascent all the more remarkable. Missionary's and Forbidden Corner were the first major leaps in standard on the face since the first ascent, and marked the first time in the history of Canadian climbing that native Canadians took charge. Though Vockeroth is perhaps best remembered for the climbs established with MacKay, he also made significant contributions with other partners, particularly Corkscrew (with Greenwood and Hans Fuhrer) and the classic Kahl Wall (an early '70s route done with a young Tim Auger).

But the climb of the '60s—the one with the reputation, the route that was Greenwood's nemesis—was the great corner of Balrog. This 12-pitch route was worked for years, with the sticking point always the base of the

upper chimney. Though Greenwood, ever the taciturn hardman, never admitted it, another climber of the time said, "Balrog really pissed him off. It was as though he couldn't get on to other things with Balrog sitting there undone, so he went at it, again and again." Greenwood finally dragged two visiting Brits, John Moss and Nat Nicholas, onto the route at the end of the summer of 1969, with an armoury of a rack. Unfortunately, they forgot to bring food. The two days of the ascent, with a raging lightning storm around them, were a serious and hungry affair. Moss credits Greenwood's drive with getting them up, through some "very loose and doubtful rock," placing, surprisingly, only three bolts. When the three stumbled back to the parking lot late the next day, Greenwood's only comment in the logbook read: "The Balrog is slain!" Though Greenwood climbed for another five years, Balrog was his last significant first ascent on Yam.

Though the names Greenwood, Vockeroth and MacKay clearly dominate the history of Yam in the '60s, there were of course a number of other significant people working the crag during the period. Of these, two who deserve special mention are Dick Lofthouse, also from Britain, and Heinz Kahl, an Austrian who climbed Direttissima with Gmoser and Grillmair, and whose respect by the climbing community is commemorated through the wonderful Kahl Wall. Lofthouse and Kahl teamed up to produce one of the mid-grade classics of the crag, Chockstone Corner, and made the eventual ascent of The Red Shirt Route with Greenwood. With other partners, notably Dick Howe, Lofthouse added great lines like Bottleneck, Shuftee, Pangolin, Dickel and Gollum Grooves.

If you look at the Yam section of the guidebook, you get the sense the '70s were a down time for climbing on the wall—only eight new routes compared to the 20+ of the previous decade—but to see the period only in terms of the number of first ascents on Yam completely misses the spirit of the era. Firstly, skills that had been built up on Yam were proving fundamental to pushes on bigger walls, and the decade

was turning out to be one of the great periods in North American alpine climbing. And in terms of pure rock climbing, another force was at work in the early years of the decade: this was the time of big-wall Yosemite, with serious and steep nail-ups the rage of the hard core. Pilgrims returning from that valley brought big-wall fever back to the Bow Valley, and their use of bolts, rivets and sky-hooks had an enormous, if somewhat indirect subsequent effect on Rockies' climbing. While the big-wall era here may have been short-lived, the gear—and attitudes—left behind formed the skeleton of all the big pushes of the next era.

The big wall routes of the '70s are perhaps the strangest detour in the history of Yam, but are a telling insight into the climbers of the time. No one was more influenced by Yosemite than Billy Davidson of Calgary. Davidson was the perfect man for the big-wall zeitgeist—a bold, patient, completely self-controlled technical wizard.

Davidson and newly arrived Swiss climber Urs Kallen were the team of early to mid-1970s on Yam, responsible for the two big aid lines that were the essence of the decade, the CMC Wall and Yellow Edge. Both routes were originally conceived by Greenwood and had seen multiple attempts. Hesitant forays onto the grand sweep of CMC Wall began in 1968, but climbers believed the overhangs on the lower third to be irreversible and were fearful of launching onto the upper wall. In 1970, CMC Wall saw several attempts, including one that left Kallen and Greenwood benighted in the grey corner at the bottom of the headwall. In 1972 Kallen came back to CMC Wall, this time with Davidson. They launched up the wall, and to force their own commitment to the climb, Kallen suggested they throw down the retreat rope after the overhangs. Convinced there was no way off the wall but up, the two began nailing the headwall.

The bivy the second night on the route was desperate as the boys became convinced the route was simply too hard for them, and Kallen says they were "completely freaked" in the morning when they saw that their belay pins

had started to pull out under body weight. Davidson hammered in some bolts, then shouted to Greenwood—who was watching them from the parking lot—to come and throw them a rope. Greenwood walked up to the base, but decided all they needed was encouragement, and declined to bail them out.

The day of climbing was terrifying and agonizing: Kallen hammered the shaky second crux traverse in terrible heat, passing out from dehydration, and just before the top of the pitch had to retreat and let Davidson finish it. When the pair finally reached the top, they were more frazzled than elated, and on the way down threw away all their gear. It was three days before Davidson changed his mind about climbing and went back for his rack.

Subsequently, Davidson and Kallen attacked the next great aid problem on the face—the Yellow Edge, a steep arete on the east end. Though this route also involved repeated attempts, the ascent of Yellow Edge went much more smoothly than CMC Wall. Despite their success, by the end of the following year, 1975, Davidson had completely lost his motivation for climbing, and moved on to solo wilderness adventures. When Davidson packed up and headed west, the big wall era in the valley came to a quick stop, and Yam settled into a period of stagnation for the rest of the decade while revolutionary developments in the Bow Valley—most notably the advent of the dedicated free-climbing bolt—happened elsewhere (see the section on CMC Wall below).

The first energies of the early '80s on Yam were directed at freeing short sections of aid left on some of the classics of the previous two decades. Several parties worked Yellow Edge in 1980-81, removing all but a few points of aid, protected by Davidson's numerous—though dubious—rivets. (Yellow Edge—via an alternate line—was finally freed in 1986 during a brief winter visit by Squamish climber Peter Croft.) In 1981, Barry Blanchard and Kevin Doyle made one of their first marks on the local climbing scene with the free ascent of Kahl Wall—still considered by many to be the

finest mid-grade route on the face. The year 1982 brought two more significant frees: Jeff Marshall and Barry Blanchard finally removed the aid on Necromancer, and Dave Cheesmond made his first appearance of note on Yam with his free of Balrog, with Tim Friesen.

But the most significant, and most provocative, free ascent of the decade was CMC Wall, completed by Brian Wallace and Bill Stark in 1984. CMC Wall had far more aid than the other climbs, was far longer, and had a much more serious reputation. The fact that this line was freed so soon after its first iron-bound ascent is perhaps the greatest testimony to the rapidly changing ethos and standard in the community at the time. This ascent, perhaps more than any other in the history of the wall, changed how climbers viewed the potential of Yam.

Looking at the history of Yam climbing, it is easy to understand what Don Vockeroth meant when he wrote about “the music” of the wall. Compared with the formalism of classic crack lines of the ‘50s and ‘60s, and the rough-hewn routes of the ‘70s, the climbs of the late ‘80s are jazz lines. They pull discordant, jarring paths out of the white noise sections of the face, where the essence of the climbing is found in long and difficult solo riffs laid over much more subtle and complicated rhythms in the rock. These climbs weave around and through some of the least-promising features of the face, yet somehow manage to find some of Yam’s best rock.

By 1985, in the shadow of the freeing of CMC Wall, a powerful sextet had formed, ready to play on these jazzier sections of Yam. The members of this group, in various combinations, would be responsible for all the major routes of the next decade. The first push on Yam in the mid-‘80s—in fact, the force behind most of the Rockies’ technical climbing of the era—came from David Cheesmond, a South African import who quickly became the Greenwood of his generation.

Cheesmond redefined how to climb Yam, showing it was possible to treat the wall a little less seriously than had been typical of past generations. Cheesmond could leave Calgary after

work and climb a route on Yam every evening of the week. His 1985 Yam trio involved a fine blend of complementary skills—Cheesmond as motivator and routefinder; his South African buddy Brian Gross providing guts and tremendous free-climbing skills; recent Irish import Choc Quinn as workhorse and stand-up comic. Their seminal routes—The Heat Is On, Brown Trousers and The Wild Boys—all looked for new ground between major features, finding sections of good rock in steep and featureless sections of the face. As is the case with all the routes of the decade, however, the routes have fearful runouts, rare bolts and occasional bits of choss. Of the three routes, only The Heat Is On has seen more than a few ascents.

The following year, with Cheesmond and Quinn away on K2, new members of the ‘80s sextet jumped in and the standards jumped yet again. Steve DeMaio, a climber from eastern Canada, showed up in the spring and went to a Calgary climbing store to find a partner. He was directed to Jeff Marshall, and the pair was off on their first ascent path within a matter of days. Marshall and DeMaio, whooping and hollering up Yam like good ol’ boys, followed in Gross’ footsteps, dismissing the developing sport-climbing scene, looking for long and difficult climbs on the other big walls of the valley—the Wind Tower, Mount Lougheed and Ha Ling Peak.

The sixth member of the band was one of the rawest, most intuitive talents ever to climb in the Rockies. On Yam, Brian Wallace was the soloist who’d drop in for a jam, set a route on fire, then disappear. Wallace would climb only four or five times a season, yet be able to on-sight 5.11 on virgin rock. Initiated to Yam with the third ascent of CMC Wall with Marshall in 1983, Wallace returned the following year with Bill Stark and climbed the route free, creating the line now agreed by most to be the finest on the face.

As had been the case with all the new advances on the mountain, the new routes of 1986 demanded a new ethic and courage: the courage naturally grew from the drive of the team; the ethic came in the form of bolts

placed off skyhooks. As Gross explained: "Either we were going to drill off hooks, or do 150-foot run-outs. It wasn't a difficult choice." The vision of the first climb came from Gross, who had wandered onto an impressive wall to the right of *Direttissima*, which had been darkly named the Suicide Wall by Greenwood. Gross had an intuition a route might be pushed through to good rock above. After six attempts, Gross, Marshall and DeMaio summited the route they called *Astro Yam*, having assured themselves, as Gross put it, "Yam was a candy store. If we were willing to risk the big falls, drilling where we could, there was great potential." The advent of *Astro Yam* was another watershed in local climbing. It was now clear that Yam had more potential than limitations, and climbers' routefinding eyes adjusted to the new sense of the possible.

*Astro Yam* was quickly followed up with two sister climbs. DeMaio made an impressive rope-solo of *Highlander*, an arete and corner system right of *CMC Wall* and one of the very few new routes established in a single day. Immediately right of *Astro Yam*, tracing a more direct, and far more serious route up the wall, *Above and Beyond* was an eight-pitch line that quickly reestablished the standard for the face. The team sees this route as their finest accomplishment. It took five attempts, including a first effort where Gross took a huge 60-foot fall, shattering an ankle. He was out for all but the final push, where he was stung with another 30-footer.

Yam was left for a time as the various players went elsewhere: Cheesmond to the Yukon, Marshall, Wallace and DeMaio on to other walls of the Bow Valley. The choices would be tragic: by the summer of 1988, Cheesmond would be lost on Mount Logan and Wallace was dead after a fall on Mount Lougheed. The effect on the rest of the team was devastating. Quinn and Gross dropped out of climbing for a time, and though both DeMaio and Marshall regrouped in 1989 to push back on Yam, their mood, and even the climbs they worked seemed darker and grimmer. The boys returned for a few more routes together, but the lusty explosions of

those golden Yam years '85 and '86 still have not returned.

It seems fair to say that most of the years since 1986 have been a time of quieter consolidation of the standards and popularity of Yam. There has certainly been development—several new routes, continuing elimination of old aid, a steady grade creep, repeats of most of the big lines on the wall, affirmation of the bottom-up ethic—but there haven't been any of the big leaps in standard or approach that have marked each of the previous decades. Perhaps most importantly, the last decade and a half on Yam have cemented its place as the bastion of tradition. While much of the recent history of climbing in the valley has centred around the advent of top-down multi-pitch sport climbs, Yam has remained a sanctuary of bottom-up, on-sight climbing. For the most part, bolts have remained a last resort measure, although on some routes—notably 1994's *Dreambed* and 1997's *Snert's Big Adventure*—a more liberal frequency of bolts has made a higher grade route more accessible.

Another important advent of this most recent era has been retrofitting of stances and resident gear, and this is an interesting development in historical terms. The retrofitting of *CMC Wall* was perhaps the first step toward recognizing that the safety of a climb could be improved without threatening its integrity, and this trend has continued as many routes have had stances improved and ancient bolts replaced. The direct consequence has been that several routes have seen considerably more traffic since the retrofitting.

In many ways, however, the situation hasn't changed much from the first four decades: the vast majority of the climbers are still found on the classic moderate lines—*Red Shirt*, *Grilmair*, *Direttissima*, *Forbidden*, *Kahl Wall*—and very few people are venturing on to unknown ground, or, for that matter, on to established desperates. (*Balrog*, for instance, has been done fewer than 15 times, whereas *Red Shirt* sees that much traffic in a weekend.) And when standards are pushed, the push comes from a very select group of Yamophiles willing to put

in the necessary time, energy and risk. A few key players—and a few developments—have been at the heart of the most recent Yamnuska climbing scene.

Beginning with his ascents of Spring Fever (with Jon Jones in 1987) and General Pain—the great wall to the left of CMC Wall completed with Jeff Marshall in 1988—Andy Genereux has emerged as one of the stars in the history of the crag. A long-time local, Genereux has spent much of his time pushing routes in the Ghost Valley to the north. His creations there have been hard, necky lines done in fine style, and he's imported the same values onto Yam. Genereux has been taking the lead in seeking out some of the steeper, less inviting sections of the crag, continuing the tradition of drilling on lead but bumping the grade up into the 5.12 range.

Since the mid-'90s, a few other Yam die-hards have been seeking out virgin territory and pushing new lines. Because the untravelled rock on the wall is complex and blank these climbs have taken considerable effort and time, but have yielded good and difficult climbing. Foremost amongst this new generation are climbers such as Shep Steiner and Joe Josephson, who put up Bringers of the Dawn near Kahl Wall, and Brian Spear, who has been working new lines on the steep east end of the crag.

The last few years have also seen the arrival of several young talents who've brought sport skills onto the big crag. Most notable amongst their efforts have been the long-awaited free ascent of Corkscrew by Ben Firth and Dave Crosley, and frees of Marriage Rites (by Firth) and The Trap Line (by Crosley). Another important recent free came from a somewhat older team: 11 years after he created the fiercely steep line through the roofs of East End Boys, Steve DeMaio came back from retirement and freed the climb with Andy Genereux at 5.12 in a marathon effort.

The last few years have also seen repeats that have softened some of the reputations of hard routes. CMC Wall now sees repeats almost every weekend, and several parties have climbed

Astro Yam. The long-awaited second ascent of Above and Beyond—in 1997 at the hands of Firth, Jim Rosette and Dion Bretzloff, did little to dispel the myth of that route: 11 years after the first ascent, the repeat still required three tries and new bolts.

One of the interesting questions of the recent era has been whether Yam would see fully bolted, multi-pitch sport routes (particularly after they cropped up on other local crags, see below). Two hard routes of the mid-'90s—Gormenghast and Dreambed—have more frequent bolts than some of the other lines on the face, but keeping with tradition, they also require considerable natural gear, were drilled from the ground up and only have bolts on more compact sections of rock. To the end of the decade, some locals were still insisting a fully equipped route would be chopped. At the end of the '90s, Andy Genereux created a route crossing Yellow Edge that tested this promise: his Snert's Big Adventure is pretty much a full sport line, and some people suggested it had not been created in valid Yam style, but Genereux insists otherwise. He says all the bolts are necessary, and that the route was created in a respectful style.

The last few years before the publication of this guide have seen an energizing resurgence in the popularity of Yam. As little as 10 years ago, you would likely have known everyone on the wall on a weekend, but now, as the number of climbers has swollen, popular routes often have line-ups and it can be hard to find a parking spot. The up-side of all the activity has been that the trade routes are getting cleaner (though definitely also more polished), and there's more energy available to help with the access and preservation issues that will likely be dominant concerns in the near future. And best of all, there are simply more and more people getting a taste of that Yam fix.

### And the Rest of the Valley

Until the mid-'60s, almost all the local climbing energy was directed at Yam, with only minor exploration of the other crags. A few routes had been done on Goat Slabs and some of the

more prominent features on the south side of the Bow Valley had been explored. Among the most active were Lloyd MacKay, John Martin, Chic Scott and Don Vockeroth. Although Brian Greenwood was probably the most fervent of Yam's flagwavers, he finally complained in a 1969 article in the Canadian Alpine Journal that too much attention was being placed on Yam, and that people needed to think about climbing elsewhere. He suggested the two great walls above Canmore—Ha Ling Peak and the East End of Rundle—would be natural objectives. In the end, as before, it was Greenwood himself who led the way.

Greenwood was followed onto the outlying valley walls by a large group of talented climbers who understood their obvious potential. A wave of ex-pat Brits (including Jack Firth, Gerry Rogan, Chris Perry, George Homer, Trevor Jones, Bugs McKeith, Rob Wood and Jon Jones) emerged as the core of this group, and they were joined by a growing number of Canadian climbers on the Goat Walls, Rundle and Ha Ling: Lloyd MacKay and Charlie Locke climbed EEOR for the first time in 1970, and Murray Toft, Chic Scott, John Martin, Greg Spohr, Jim White and Tim Auger added their names to the slowly lengthening list of first ascensionists.

It's important to understand the context of the time to comprehend the climbs of the era. Most of the key players in the late '60s belonged to the Calgary Mountain Club (CMC), and the CMC offered an open door to the local scene for newly arrived and young climbers. The CMC met weekly at a bar in Calgary, and gave climbers a chance to hang out and find ready partners. It also gave an opportunity for new talent to have direct contact with the heroes of the sport, and for ethics, styles and standards to be inculcated quickly into the newcomers.

Two dominant factors contributed to the trends of the era: As the decade dawned, the new crop of energetic and experienced climbers arrived from Britain, consolidating the adventure ethic espoused by Greenwood and bringing with them dramatically improved equipment that expanded the envelope of

the game. 150-foot double 9 mm kernmantle ropes became the standard line (as opposed to the limited 100-foot cable-laid ropes of the '50s & the 120-foot ropes of the '60s). While pitons were still accepted as the best way to deal with the tight local cracks, the British climbers also brought wired nuts and hexes, offering faster and more economical ways of protecting—and thus opening—new lines. For this group, on sight was the only ethic considered: climbs were done from the ground up; hanging on protection and placing bolts were viewed as cheating or aid climbing; aid climbing was used when necessary, but an overriding consideration was expediency. The climbs were generally long and speed was essential for success.

The early '70s were dominated by efforts in the CMC Valley behind Yamnuska. While Billy Davidson sought out steep long aid routes like Iron Suspender, the immigrant gang applied the British crag climbing ethics that emphasized short, hard free climbs without bolts. Jon Jones, Alistair "Bugs" McKeith, Chris Perry, Jack Firth, George Homer, Rob Wood and others, plus a member of that rare breed, a native Calgarian, John Martin, formed the early core. At any one time the active exploration group consisted of approximately 6 to 10 people out of a total climbing population of perhaps 200 people. For the most part, whenever and wherever you climbed, you knew everyone else on the crag.

Jon Jones, Homer and others put in the first routes in the late fall of 1970, and in the spring of '71 added the first 5.9 in the area, Dirty Dago. Other moderate grade routes quickly started to fill out the valley. In 1973, McKeith and Firth added The Fourth of Firth, while Davidson, Homer and Jon Jones added False Modesty, both 5.9. Isengard, the first route to be graded 5.10a, was climbed in 1975 by Firth, Perry and the newly imported Trevor Jones on his first rock outing in Canada.

The first of the really revolutionary developments after the leap of the original routes on Yam came at the able hands of the Junior Boys' Choir. The Choir was a group of Calgary teen-

agers who had been brought into the lair of the old guard of the CMC during the early '70s and were given a quick tutelage in the ways of hard-core climbing and the depraved climbers' life. Many of the members of this group would go on to make contributions to the alpine world, and most prominent in terms of rock climbing in the valley were John Lauchlan and Bruce Keller. Lauchlan first made his mark with the first ascent of the huge wall of Gibraltar Rock south of Calgary, and then again with an attempted second ascent of CMC Wall on Yam. Although Lauchlan and his long-time partner Jim Elzinga had to be helped off the wall two pitches from the top, their effort gained them considerable recognition—especially given that they were only 18 at the time.

Lauchlan's pairing with Keller would be one of the strongest blends of technical skill and guts in the history of the area. These two combined a willingness to push, an eye for possibilities in blank rock, and an acceptance of the bolt in creating some stunning accomplishments. After the required apprenticeships on Yam under the hard men, Lauchlan and Keller began looking for new ground to try out their free-climbing skills. They understood that a free climbing push would require better rock than Yam tended to offer, and so sought out the better—though consequently blander—sections of grey limestone. In 1975, the pair took centre stage in the local free scene with their ascents of Hurricane Holocaust (a very stiff 5.9) and Groundfall Wall at 5.10b, both in CMC Valley. Neither of these routes used bolts for protection and the latter, in particular, convinced Lauchlan of their necessity if standards were to rise.

Nowhere was this better exemplified than on their ascent of The Maker, perhaps the quintessential '70s climb, and still a severe undertaking by any standard. Lauchlan and Keller managed huge run-outs, drilled bolts in gripped positions after long and complicated routefinding, and still managed the climb in remarkable style. The attitude and approach that fuelled The Maker was the foundation for much of what was to follow in Rockies'

climbing—particularly in terms of the effort expended: Lauchlan and Keller worked the route over a long period of time, and this was a significant departure in the perception of how a route was to be done.

While the technical leaps were happening on these smaller crags, on the other valley walls the style was firmly fixed in the exploration and mountaineering vein. Guides' Route, completed by Charlie Locke and Lloyd MacKay in 1970, opened up the massive chunk of rock known as EEOR (East End of Rundle), and at 17 pitches was the antithesis of later attention to small technical routes. In 1971, Dick Howe and John Martin completed a number of seven-pitch moderate routes on McGillivray Slabs, and Jack Firth and Jon Jones did a dozen pitches up Goat Wall at 5.8 in 1973. The great wall of the Windtower, above Wind Valley, was an obvious lure that George Homer and Rob Wood were able to bag in 1972, at the classic, mysterious Rockies standard—5.8, A2. And the following year Homer was back in the same area with Jon Jones to check out the Rimwall with Pinko, 5.8.

Goat Slabs was the scene of a near multiple fatality on a new route when a young John Lauchlan made the classic mistake of putting three pitons behind one very large, apparently sound, block. As an afterthought he added a fourth, tied off in good rock above. While Lauchlan belayed the second man, John Martin, the block separated from the crag and cascaded in chunks over Jack Firth, whose foot was severely injured. Lauchlan was left suspended by the one tied-off piton and the party self-rescued in epic circumstances. The route was later completed in 15 pitches by the all Scottish team of McKeith, Dick Howe and Ian Rowe, and rather caustically dubbed Coup-Jack.

The shorter and more accessible Kid Goat and Nanny Goat were opened up by Perry, Trevor Jones and Martin in 1975-76, with the immediate best of the crop, Skywalk, coming in at 10a.

The daunting North Face of Ha Ling Peak finally received well-deserved attention in 1976. Quick Release was done with a crack-

of-noon start by Trevor Jones and a somewhat bemused American visitor, the granite aid specialist Jim Bauer, while Orient Express was completed after several earlier explorations in a 3 1/2 day push by the Perry, Firth and Mike Sawyer team. Both are now classics.

The magnificent Goat Buttress on the left edge of the Goat Wall had long been on the CMC exploration agenda. Davidson had prepared a mounted, metre-high black and white photo for his attempts. That icon had been bequeathed to various CMC houses over the years, and was used by Chris Perry to plot his attempts, first with Sawyer and Keller, finally and successfully with Trevor Jones in July 1977.

In the last two years of the '70s, the earliest evidence of the next trend was beginning to show in the valley. As technical skill rose, as a result of both improved gear and the training offered by the increasing number of long trad routes, people started focusing their attentions on the possibilities offered by some of the short aid climbs left behind by the big wall era. A lot of energy was expended by the group of climbers hired as guides at the cadet camp in Banff in 1978 on freeing Tourist Attraction near Banff (10b) and Mini-Gonda on Tunnel Mountain—a big deal as the area's first 5.11. When climbers started checking out these routes to test their mettle, the canyons and small crags started gaining a somewhat begrudgingly positive reputation.

Heart Canyon was the scene of Rough Mix, by Keller, Sawyer and Perry, and Overly Hung, 10a, by Mark Whalen and Sawyer in 1978. A couple of routes went up on Whiteman Crag: particularly Die Young, Stay Pretty, 10b, which was led by Shelley Scott and named by the second, Mike Sawyer, as a comment on her excellent free climbing abilities but lack of expertise with half-driven pitons.

And although it's just out of the scope of this book, the magnificent four-pitch Paper Chase by Mike Sawyer and Carl Oustram at 5.11a on Mount Cory in 1980 was a bell-wether route.

Ray Jotterand's energy and alpine expertise were also added to the local scene in 1978.

Jotterand came from Europe, with great talent and promise, and in February of 1979 was able to eliminate much of the aid on Yellow Edge with Trevor Jones. But 1980-81 proved instead to knock a massive amount of energy out of the local scene. Jotterand was killed on the Haute Route in Switzerland, Lauchlan died on Polar Circus and Mike Sawyer lost a hand—and nearly his life—in a helicopter accident. These three events, signatures of the risks of the adventure game, seemed to be the fulcrum upon which the next—and perhaps greatest change—in Bow Valley climbing turned.

Early in the '80s, North American climbing magazines started to talk about the European trend called sport climbing, which involved top-down construction of routes and an emphasis on safety, technical difficulty and maximization of good rock. Sport practices first showed up in North America at Smith Rock in Oregon, and when the technical standard there was suddenly reported to be the highest on the continent, locals naturally started to wonder about importing the new ways.

The impact on valley climbing cannot be overstated. For virtually all its history, climbing here had been guided by a few fundamental principles—climbs were led on sight, from the ground up; boulder climbs were better climbs; bolts were placed sparingly if at all, and only when no other protection was possible; blank sections of rock were unprotectable and were thus avoided; multi-pitch climbs were the real thing, so attention should only be paid to the big walls—and all of these principles fell by the way in an incredibly short period of time after the first rap-bolted climb appeared in 1980.

One of the first people to look into climbing in the local canyons was another ex-pat Brit, Dave Morgan. Morgan had grown up around the short technical crags of central Britain, and he was one of the first to act on the possibilities of some of the canyons off the Bow. He entered Grotto as the decade turned and, pre-placing gear, managed the 5.11 Stormy Weather in 1981. By the mid-'80s, however, when more climbs in Grotto began to see the drill, locals divided with some animosity into

sport and trad camps. It's hard to believe the intensity of the tensions that developed, especially now that hindsight suggests both camps profited from their differences. The most immediate and obvious impact was the opening up of many more climbing areas and huge amounts of new rock in more established areas. The introduction of the electric drill was singlehandedly responsible for a huge change in the number of readily accessible climbs within just a few years. There was an enormous swelling in the population of climbers by the beginning of the '90s.

One of the primary forces during the sport climbing surge was another newly arrived Brit, the ubiquitous Sean Dougherty. Dougherty was an irrepressible energy throughout the '80s, sparking everyone with his sport routes, his hard alpine and ice climbs, his guidebooks and a frenetic keenness for all things climbing. A few other long-term residents joined Sean in developing the majority of local routes, most notably Andy Genereux, Jon Jones and John Martin. Anyone who climbs in the new canyons owes them a debt of gratitude—their amazingly selfless investment was the first time local routes had been completed with attention to those who would follow.

Although many of the local trads claimed to be upset by the advent of the drill, sport climbing did seem to have a positive impact on the evolution of traditional climbing. First, the fight against the development of sport climbing encouraged some people to push their own standards on the bigger walls, perhaps to show what could be done with a true trad ethic. Second, many of the “trad” climbers of the time—despite their protestations—were quietly developing their technical skills in the canyons and then importing their improved talents up onto the walls. And perhaps more importantly, the presence of the larger number of bolts in the canyons seems to have had the effect of helping everyone see how much new rock the bolts opened up, and drills started following climbers onto Yam and the other walls.

A more evolutionary and traditional step forward took place in the later '80s when some of the Yam talent turned their focus onto the other walls. The most notable steps of this period were the climb of The Iron Butterfly on the Windtower (by DeMaio and Marshall), The Remembrance Wall on Ha Ling Peak (also DeMaio and Marshall) and The Warrior on Mount Lougheed (finally climbed by DeMaio, Marshall and Andy Genereux, after the route had taken the life of Brian Wallace during the penultimate attempt). This period also saw traditional probes at some unexplored ground, such as the Rimwall, where DeMaio, Choc Quinn and Jim Sevigny created The Gambler.

The next truly revolutionary development took a while. The first multi-pitch sport route was a predictable extension of the canyon routes, yet spurred just as much controversy, because some felt it more seriously crossed the long-sacred adventure principle. In 1990 Canmore guide Mark Whalen began quietly exploring the clean grey wall left of Geriatric on EEOR, seeking ground to teach clients multi-pitch leading skills. The rippled rock he worked required little cleaning, but demanded a huge investment of bolt money. Whalen's climb, the appropriately named True Grit, brought him much criticism for the rap-bolting, but

the great rock, moderate grade, stunning position and guarantee of safety made it an instant classic.

Doomsayers suggested that after True Grit was constructed the valley would suddenly fill with long rap-bolted routes, but it appears the effort and expense demanded by such an undertaking has kept the drill out of wanton hands. Since that climb went in there have been a few follow-ups—Whalen completed two similar, though easier, multi-pitches (Raptor on the wall left of EEOR, and Sea of Dreams on Mount Cory near Banff), Jon Jones added his own harder and more-committing Parallel Dreams to True Grit's immediate left, and newcomers Roger Chayer, Hugh Lenney and Genie Hill built the marathon Sisyphus Summits on Ha Ling Peak—but there have been no other efforts that fulfil the dire predictions of gridwork bolts on the big crags.

In fact, the trend in route creation during the latter '90s has, for the most part, been a continuation of the classic Rockies' tradition. While the multi-pitch sport routes have become the most-travelled long routes in the valley by far, the other new routes that have been created have been ground-up lines that have used bolts sparingly despite high level technical demands. And countering predictions that climbers coming out of the canyons would lack the background to either lead safely on Rockies' limestone or honour the valley's ethical traditions, some of the sport climbing graduates putting up new trad lines—like the very-talented Ben Firth, Sean Isaac, Jim Rosette, Eric Dumerac, Brian Spear, Marc Piche and Dave Crosley—have all shown themselves committed to both the risk and the responsibility of tradition. The valley is reconfirming its place as a climbing paradise that has room for all styles and desires.

# DOOR JAMB MOUNTAIN

Calling this a mountain is somewhat of a misnomer as Door Jamb Mountain is really just a shoulder of Loder Peak, which itself is simply a high point on the south end of Goat Mountain, which itself is really just an extended ridge line. Confused? More simply, these routes are clearly visible as three huge slabs near the top of a ridge line as you travel east from Exshaw. The slabs are rather low-angled, but the rock is good and well-featured with runnels and cracks. Despite the long approach, they show some promise as a nice area for beginner-level traditional climbs. The descriptions here are from recent explorations and the slabs have been climbed on many times over the years, but have previously gone unreported.

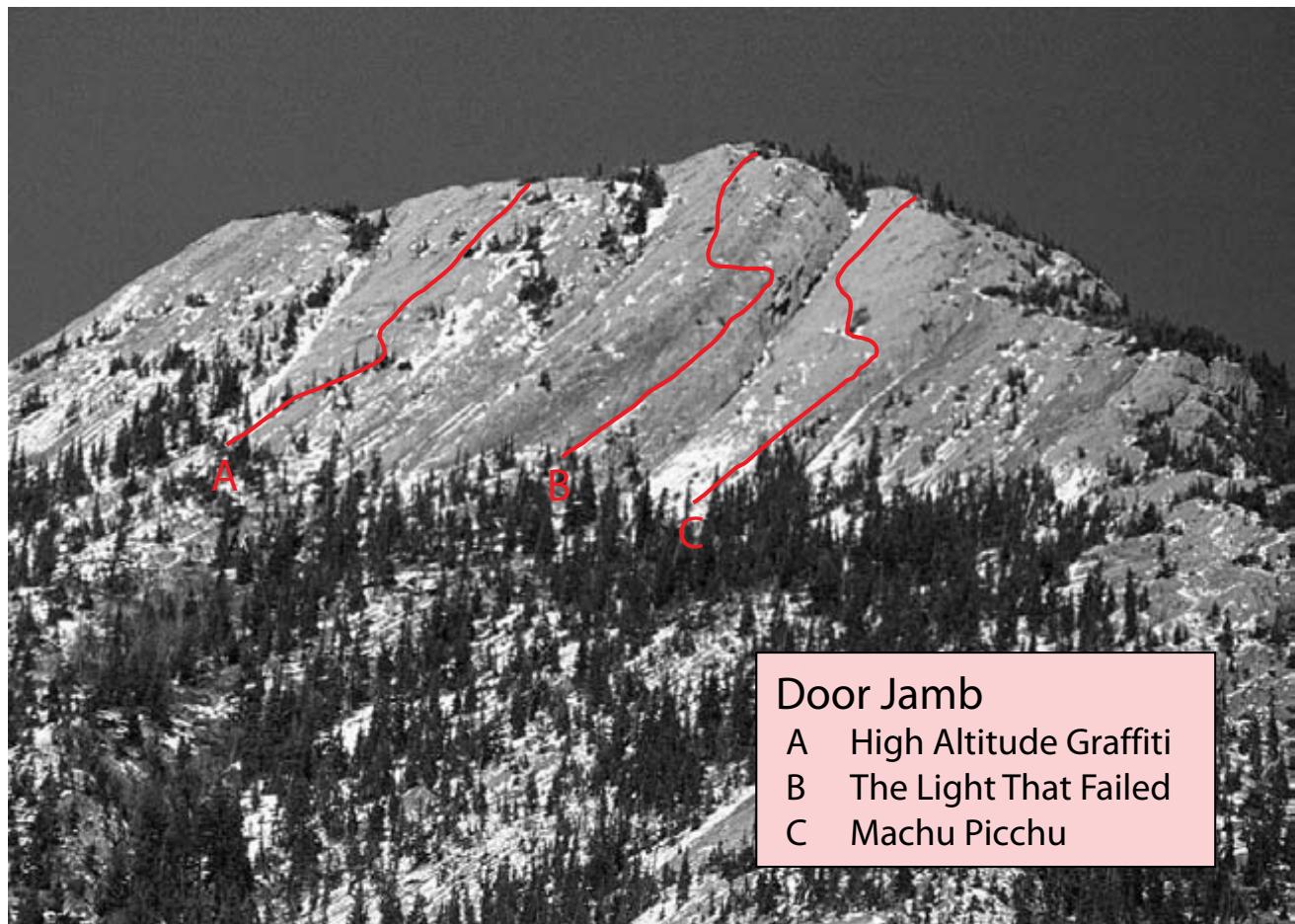
## Approach

Park on Highway 1A across from the Continental Lime Plant about 2 km east of the bridge in Exshaw. Follow the ridge line up Loder Peak until you can traverse out left below the slabs (40 minutes).

## Descent

Follow the ridge back to the road.

High Altitude Graffiti 115 m, 5.5



G. Cornell & J. Milburne, May 1997

This route climbs the third (farthest left) of the three main slabs. Scramble up to a treed ledge and belay below an overlap on the slab above.

- 1) 45 m Climb the slab to the overlap and continue easily past it to a tiny shelf at a second overlap.
- 2) 45 m Continue up a right-facing corner and about half way up, move left from it onto a slab. Go up and left to a broken ledge.
- 3) 25 m Climb the middle of the slab to the top.

**The Light That Failed 155 m, 5.6**

G. Cornell & G. Macrae, February 1998

For the first two pitches, this route climbs a yellow wall on the left side of the large corner between the first and second slabs. It moves left higher up onto the second slab. Start at a narrow ramp.

- 1) 40 m, 5.5 Follow the ramp up to a corner and belay on a ledge.
- 2) 45 m, 5.6 Continue up the ramp past a small tree to where it peters out. Climb a short, steep section and then traverse left and down slightly to a gravel bay.
- 3) 40 m, 5.5 Move left onto the slab and smear across diagonally left to an overhang. Climb a crack on the left side and belay above.
- 4) 30 m, 5.3 Continue up to the top.

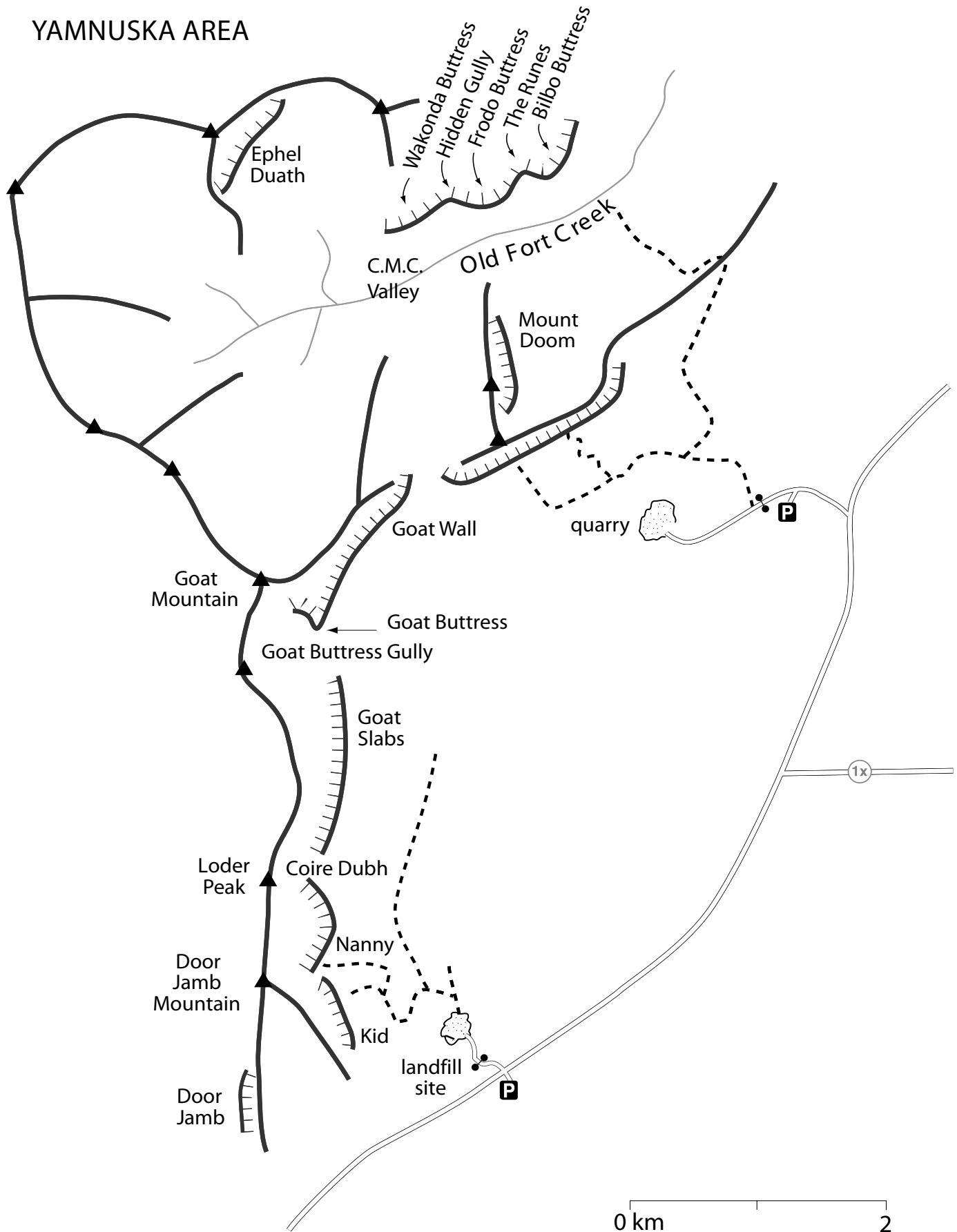
**Machu Picchu 200 m, 5.6**

J. Milburne & G. Cornell, May 1997

This enjoyable route climbs an unusual, ankle-deep water runnel on the first of the three main slabs.

- 1) 45 m, 5.3 Climb the huge runnel on the right-hand side of the slab and belay beneath an overlap.
- 2) 45 m, 5.4 Continue up the runnel and a steep section above.
- 3) 50 m, 5.3 Make a long, easy traverse left to a treed ledge.
- 4) 30 m, 5.4 Climb a short, vegetated crack and then traverse left to a small ledge about 5 m right of the large corner below a blank slab.
- 5) 30 m, 5.6 Move up and left following a series of pockets in the slab (good Tri-cams) and then go up between two black pinstripes to the top.

## YAMNUSKA AREA



# GOAT MOUNTAIN

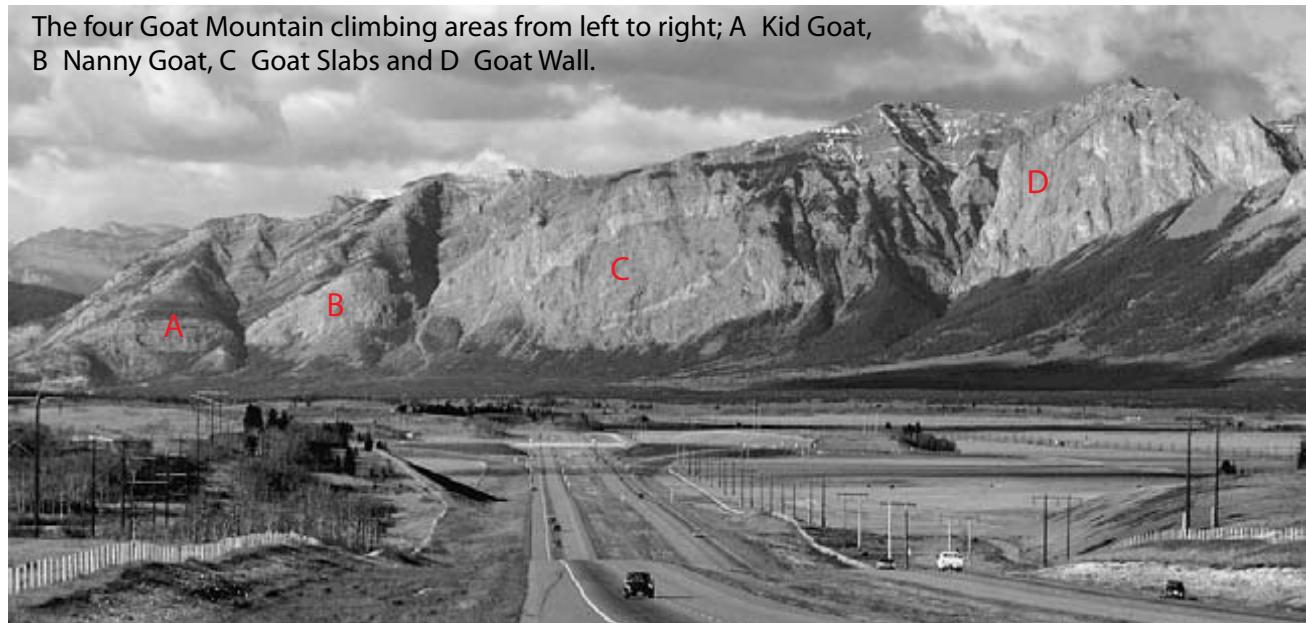
The east face of Goat Mountain is a huge over-thrust mass of Eldon limestone that marks the southward extension from Yamnuska of the McConnell Fault. The face extends along almost the entire length of the south ridge of the mountain and is broken by major gullies into four sections. These decrease considerably in size from north to south and are called Goat Wall, Goat Slabs, Nanny Goat and Kid Goat (see map and photograph). Separate summits along the ridge have been named and these are Door Jamb Mountain, which lies above the right-hand side of Kid Goat, and Loder Peak, which lies above Nanny Goat. Climbs on the west-facing slabs near the summit of Door Jamb Mountain are described in the preceding section.

## Approach

The principal approach for climbs on the four Goat Mountain crags is from the south beginning at a paved parking area on the south side of Highway 1A opposite the access road to the landfill site. The parking area is about 0.7 km east of where the highway bends around the extreme end of the south ridge. Walk across the highway and follow the landfill access road, turning right at the first fork, until it turns sharply to the left and leads down to the present dumping site. Just beyond a "No Shooting" sign on the right side of the road, climb over a barbed-wire fence and pick up a faint trail that heads north and then west along an old road around the landfill boundary. This leads to a good dirt road that passes through a gap in the trees and then forks just beyond. Access through the landfill site is subject to change but the general objective is to go around its eastern and northern boundaries and locate the dirt road. Follow the left fork of the road diagonally up toward the cliffs for about 250 m until it begins to curve left toward Kid Goat and a horse trail forks off to the right. The road itself gives access to Kid Goat and the left side of Nanny Goat and the horse trail leads north to the right side of Nanny Goat, Goat Slabs and Goat Wall. Access to the individual cliffs is described in the appropriate section.

The recently created Yamnuska Natural Area lies immediately north and east of the landfill site and new access from the south, at or near the landfill site, is planned.

The four Goat Mountain climbing areas from left to right; A Kid Goat,  
B Nanny Goat, C Goat Slabs and D Goat Wall.



## KID GOAT

Kid Goat is the smallest and most developed of the Goat Mountain climbing areas and is about 150 m high. It consists of predominantly low-angled rock with a steeper band at just over half height that runs along the entire length of the cliff. This band provides the crux sections of most of the older routes and at the right-hand end, where it is more pronounced, it has been extensively developed as a sport climbing area. The quality of rock on the cliff is generally quite good and often excellent, particularly on the steep band.

There are two distinct types of routes on Kid Goat, the older, traditional-style climbs that originally required piton protection and were fairly run-out, and the sport climbs that are concentrated at the right-hand end. Some of the former now have good fixed protection (pitons and bolts) and their low level of technical difficulty (5.6-5.8) makes them an ideal introduction to multi-pitch climbing. Many remain in their original state, however, and are quite serious.

Addition of bolts to the older climbs was slow to start, perhaps out of respect for the style in which they were first done, but nowadays it is generally agreed that such action was long overdue. Seriously run-out routes of low technical difficulty appeal to almost no one and bolt protection makes the routes more enjoyable and more consistent with their grade. Also some rerouting of the climbs onto better rock has been possible. The current status of these older climbs is noted in their descriptions but when in doubt, it is advisable to carry a selection of pitons. Despite the retrofitting, the routes are not true sport climbs and some experience and judgement are required for them to be climbed safely. Helmets should be worn on all routes as some of the ledges still have loose rock and the cliff is quite broken near the top. Credit for retrofitting is acknowledged with the first ascent information for each route as a fair amount of effort and judgement is required and often climbs are changed significantly by rerouting.

A topo of the sport climbs is included for completeness and this is basically the same as that given in the Sport Climbs guidebook by Martin and Jones.

Kid Goat's location at the edge of the mountains means it enjoys the same favourable weather as Yamnuska. Since it faces east and is quick to dry, it provides good early season alternative to the shaded canyon areas and is a less serious trad-climbing venue than Yamnuska. The sun goes off the cliff at about 1:00 pm.

The cliff is split into four areas, each with its own character and approach. The Lower Left Side (or Tim's Crag) is a separate cliff about 100 m below the Upper Left Side that has recently been developed as a teaching area. It is not included in this book as it is frequently used by local climbing schools. However, it is important to be aware of the cliff when climbing on the Upper Left Side as any rock fall generated may cause a hazard. The two other areas are Kid Goat Centre and the Right Side.

### Approach

Using the normal approach for the Goat Mountain climbing areas, walk past the east side of

the dump, bear left at the fork in the road just north of the dump, and continue along the road as it curves round to the left and then turns directly toward the cliff to a small but prominent gravel pit (10-15 minutes, see map page 26). About 25 m beyond the gravel pit, the road swings sharply to the right (small trail on the left to the Lower Left Side) and begins to climb the hill. About 75 m farther on a faint trail contours off to the right (small cairn) opposite a 1 m-high jagged boulder. This is the Nanny Goat trail that may also be used to access the Right Side of Kid Goat. The road continues up heading roughly for the open rounded hillside below the right end of Kid Goat and after a few bends it narrows to a rough gravel track. Turn left at a cairn and follow a side trail that diagonals up toward the main cliff near the left margin of the open slope. There are two trails higher up that lead off into the trees to different areas of the cliff. The first of these is referred to as the Lower Trail and the second as the Middle Trail. The approach for each area of the cliff is described in the appropriate section.

## Descent

From the top of Kid Goat easy descents can be made to the south down the ridge, or to the north into the Nanny Goat gully. A good trail runs from the top of the climbs on Kid Goat Centre to the gully, near the bottom of which it is necessary to cross from the Kid Goat side to the Nanny Goat side and then scramble down and left on ledges and easy slabs (fourth class, pitons in place to rappel).

## Upper Left Side

A prominent feature on Kid Goat is a large sloping area of trees, referred as the Main Tree Island, located in the lower half of the cliff and somewhat left of centre. The Upper Left Side extends from the extreme left end of the cliff to the left edge of the trees. This area of the cliff is less frequently climbed upon and the routes are largely in their original condition. Pitons are required on most climbs, unless stated otherwise, and the routes are relatively serious and run-out.

### Approach

When using the main approach route, take the Lower or Middle Trail to the base of the cliff and follow it across to the small cave, below and right of the Main Tree Island, at the start of Twilight Zone. The trail effectively ends at this point and a much fainter one drops down and traverses left across a break between the main cliff and a lower cliff band. Partway along the break, descend past a dead tree in a shallow groove and continue across to scree slopes on the other side. A faint trail climbs up and left past a small cliff band to the extreme left end of the cliff.

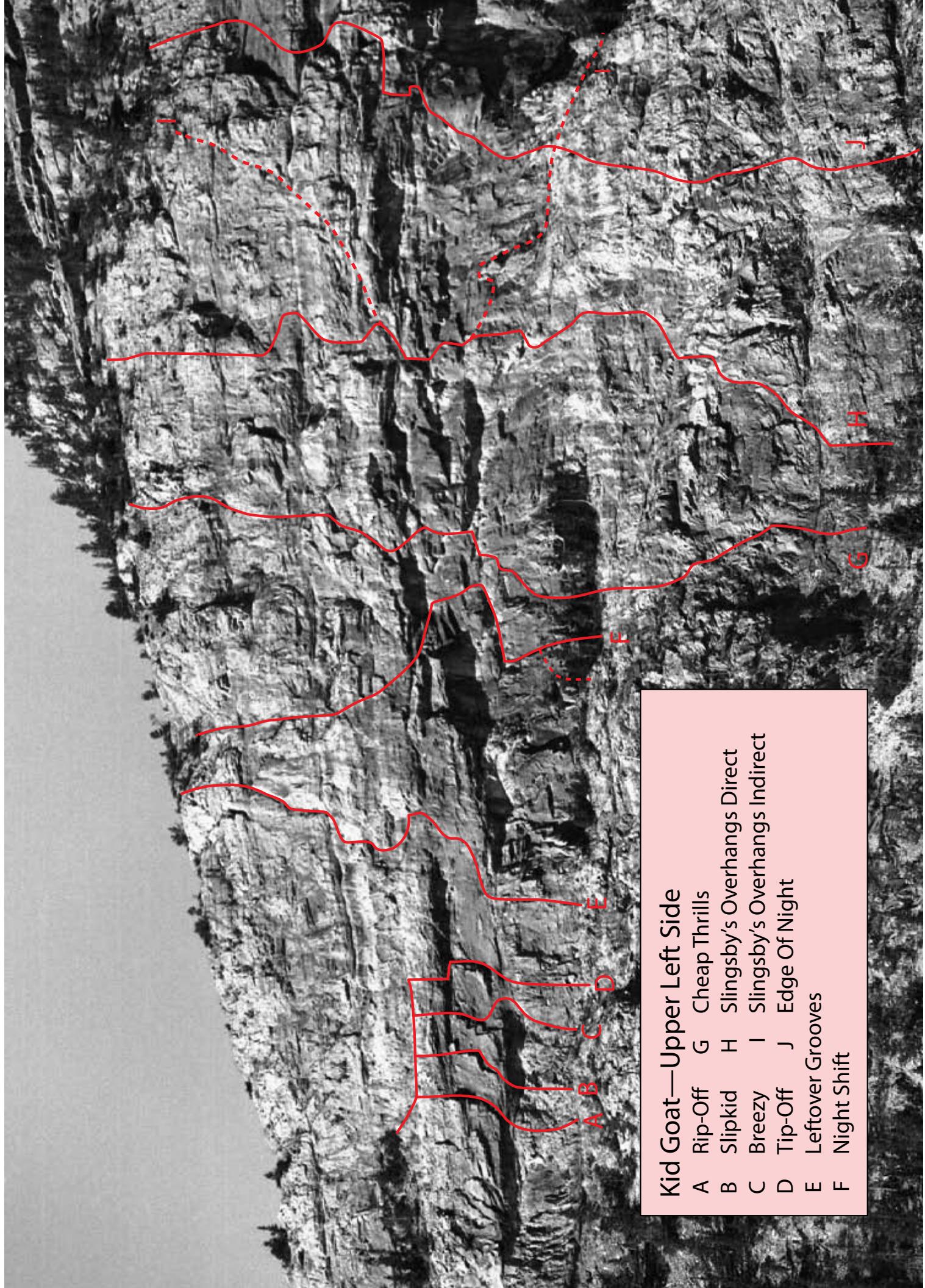
A convenient access route directly to the south end of Kid Goat is the ridge leading up from Highway 1A. There is a quarry at the base of the ridge that should be avoided but its western boundary is clearly marked. Either park at the normal Goat Mountain parking area or at houses a short distance west of the ridge. Beginning about 300 m west of where the road bends around the base of the ridge, follow the quarry boundary up to the ridge crest and continue on a good trail to a small knoll below the extreme left end of Kid Goat.

A third alternative is to follow the trail to the Lower Left Side (turn left from the main trail a short distance above the gravel pit), traverse across to its right-hand side, and then either scramble up a shallow, slabby gully and the scree slopes above or skirt around the far right end of the cliff and diagonal back to the same point. At a small cliff band below the lowest point of the main cliff move up left to join the faint trail that traverses across from Kid Goat Centre. Note that this alternative has almost no trail and can cause a significant rock fall hazard to the lower teaching area.

### Descent

None of the routes is fixed for rappel but an easy descent can be made down the left end of the cliff.

The first four climbs follow a parallel series of short, right-facing corners at the extreme left end of the cliff. They are rarely done and except for Rip-Off, a small selection of pitons is currently required. The climbs can be finished by following easy rock to the top of the cliff, or more conveniently by traversing left to trees and scrambling down.



**Kid Goat—Upper Left Side**

A	Rip-Off	G	Cheap Thrills
B	Slipkid	H	Slingsby's Overhangs Direct
C	Breezy	I	Slingsby's Overhangs Indirect
D	Tip-Off	J	Edge Of Night
E	Leftover Grooves		
F	Night Shift		

**Rip-Off\*** 30 m, 5.6

J. Martin & M. Sawyer, 1975

Rip-off is a short, well-protected layback pitch up the first and most prominent corner.

**Slipkid** 30 m, 5.8

C. Perry & M. White, 1978

Slipkid climbs an easier corner above a crux start—a committing layback sequence up a short bulging wall.

**Breezy** 30 m, 5.6

J. Martin & L. Howard, 1979

This short route follows a moderate corner capped by a small roof.

**Tip-Off** 30 m, 5.6

G. Spohr & J. Martin, 1979

Tip-off takes an easy corner capped by an awkward roof. Watch for small loose blocks at the roof.

**Leftover Grooves\*** 85 m, 5.7

C. Perry & J. Martin, April 1979

This interesting route is currently very run-out. It can be protected solely by gear but the addition of two bolt runners below the crux would make the climb much more enjoyable.

From below the four parallel corners, traverse right above slabs on a small ledge system and belay on the edge of a small buttress just before the first treed bay.

- 1) 50 m, 5.7 Climb the left side of the buttress to a horizontal ledge. From the right end of the ledge, move up and right across a steep slab (tricky gear) and climb up with difficulty into a short corner. Move left and go up to a short corner with a small roof above. Climb the crack on the right to a piton belay in a corner/crack.
- 2) 35 m, 5.5 Climb the low-angled layback crack to the top.

**Night Shift\*** 85 m, 5.5

C. Dale & J. Martin, 1981

This spectacular-looking route is easier than it appears but it has some loose blocks.

Continue traversing farther right than Leftover Grooves to a large treed ledge and begin near its left-hand end at a big block. Take a selection of small pitons.

- 1) 40 m, 5.5 Traverse right from the block into a groove, or climb the overhang at the base of the groove (5.8). Continue up the groove, traverse right to a break in the bulge above, and then move up to the main roof. Traverse left on a slanting ledge, then continue left to an easy break in the overlap above and move up to a small ledge.
- 2) 45 m Climb easy rock to the top.

## Cheap Thrills 135 m, 5.8

J. Martin & G. Spohr, 1979

Start either below easy ground at the base of the cliff or traverse farther right from Night Shift to below a groove. A selection of small pitons is required.

- 1) 50 m, 5.2 Climb an easy pitch from the base of the cliff to the big treed ledge of Night Shift.
- 2) 35 m, 5.8 Make a few steep moves to gain the groove right of Night Shift, then climb more easily to a sloping ledge. Traverse right, then climb up to a small birch shrub at a horizontal break. Traverse right to a short corner (watch for loose rock) and climb this to a ledge with a bolt.
- 3) 35 m, 5.7 Step up onto a slab under a roof, then move left to a break and step over the roof. Continue easily to a ledge.
- 4) 15 m Climb easily to the top.

## Slingsby's Overhangs 160 m, 5.7/5.5

K. Bridgens & T. Jones, May 1975

Retro: Pitches 1 & 2: J. Josephson & K. Snyder;  
Pitches 3 & 4: T. Jones, G. Fletcher & J. Billings.

The original Indirect version of this route was one of the first climbs done on Kid Goat and in the tradition of W. C. Slingsby, the great English Lake District pioneer, it followed a wandering line of least resistance through the overhangs. A direct route was added soon afterward and this has now been bolted and rerouted to give one of the best climbs of its type on the crag. Unfortunately, it poses a rock fall hazard to the lower teaching cliff. Pitons are not necessary but gear is required for pitches 1 and 3.

The climb starts at a high point in the scree slope near the right-hand end of this section of the cliff at a cluster of three dead trees and a large, single spruce tree. The best way of reaching the climb is to scramble up the shallow gully on the right-hand side of the lower cliff, as described in the approach section, continue straight up a scree gully, and then up and left slightly past a small cliff band directly to the start. Alternatively, traverse across from Kid Goat Centre and follow the base of the cliff up for a short distance.

- 1) 40 m, 5.5 Climb a shallow groove to a broken ledge, move right, and follow a system of slabby grooves up and right past three bolts to a horizontal break and a two-bolt belay.
- 2) 35 m, 5.7 Move up right to a piton at a small ledge below a groove. Climb the groove (piton) and exit right past a bolt. Follow a crack up and left (bolt on the wall above) and then move right to below a small roof with a bolt just over the lip. Step right and make a tricky move up over the roof, then move left to a shallow groove (piton) and follow this past a bolt to a small ledge and three-piton belay on the left.
- 3) 35 m, 5.7 Move up and left to a short corner that leads up through an obvious break in

the roofs. From the top of the corner move up right for a short distance and then make an awkward step left past a bolt onto a slabby wall. Interesting moves up the wall lead to easier ground and a bolt belay below the right end of an overlap.

- 4) 50 m, 5.6 Reach up and clip a bolt above the overlap and move up on to a slab. Continue up and left to a bolt on a broken rib and go up this past a piton and another bolt to ledges. Climb easily past isolated small trees to the top.

### Slingsby's Overhangs Indirect 130 m, 5.5

K. Bridgens & T. Jones, 1975

This is the easiest climb on Kid Goat. It follows the wandering line taking the original first ascent (done on the same day as Keelhaul Wall) and starts at the Main Tree Island.

Begin as for Twilight Zone and climb up and left (easy 5th) to the base of the Main Tree Island. Scramble up its right-hand side and then move over left to a short pillar. Move left below this and up to two trees on the edge.

- 1) 45 m, 5.2 Follow easy ledges left and up slightly past a dead tree to a groove on the right side of a broken pillar.
- 2) 10 m, 5.4 From the left side of the pillar, climb diagonally left across a small slab to a ledge below a roof and a three-piton belay (top of pitch 2 of the direct).
- 3) 35 m, 5.5 Follow the direct route up the corner and move right to below the bolt. Instead of stepping up left onto the wall, continue traversing right and up (pitons) following an obvious break to easy ground. Climb up to a small tree at a ledge and a piton belay.
- 4) 40 m Climb easy rock to the top.

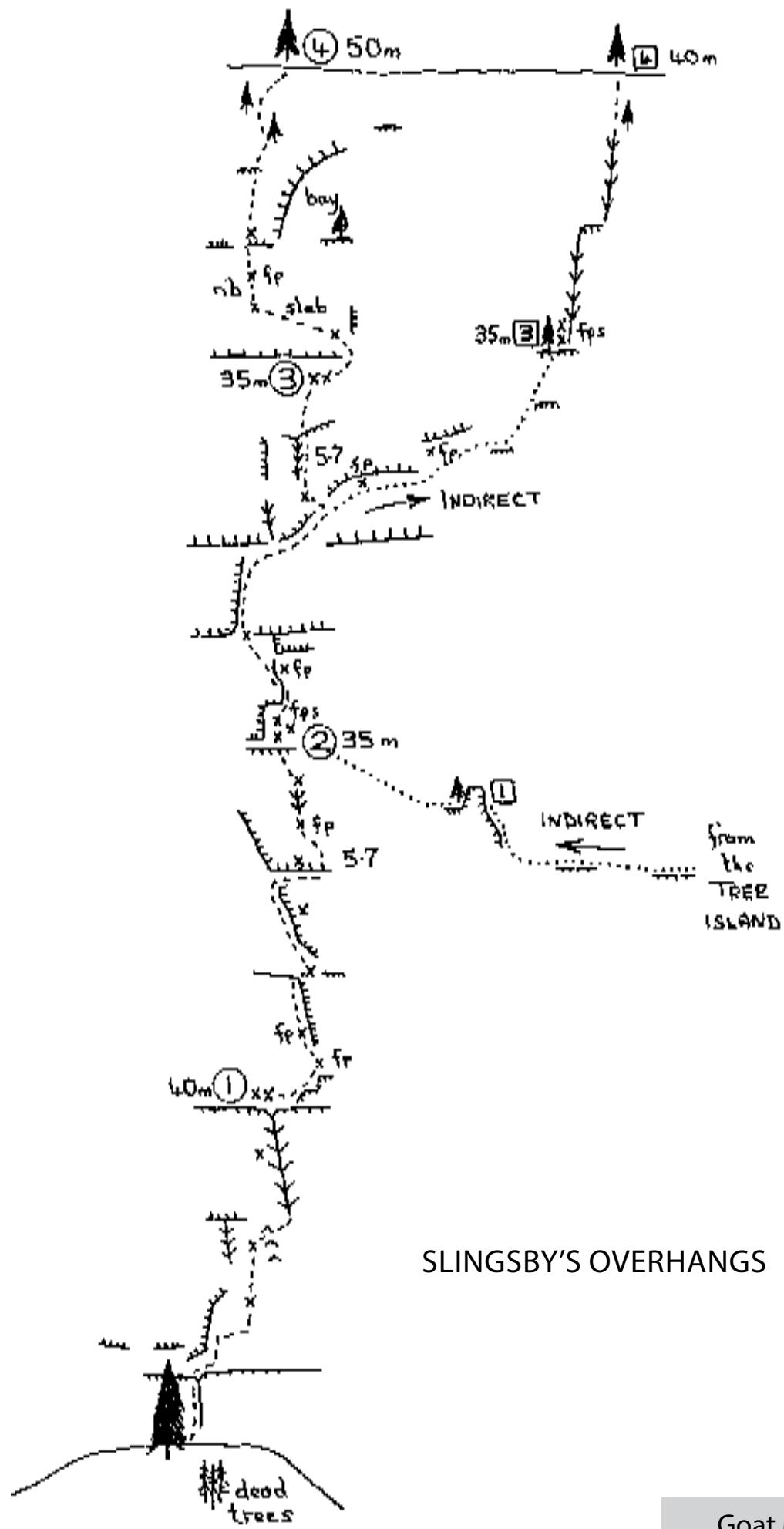
### Edge of Night 155 m, 5.7

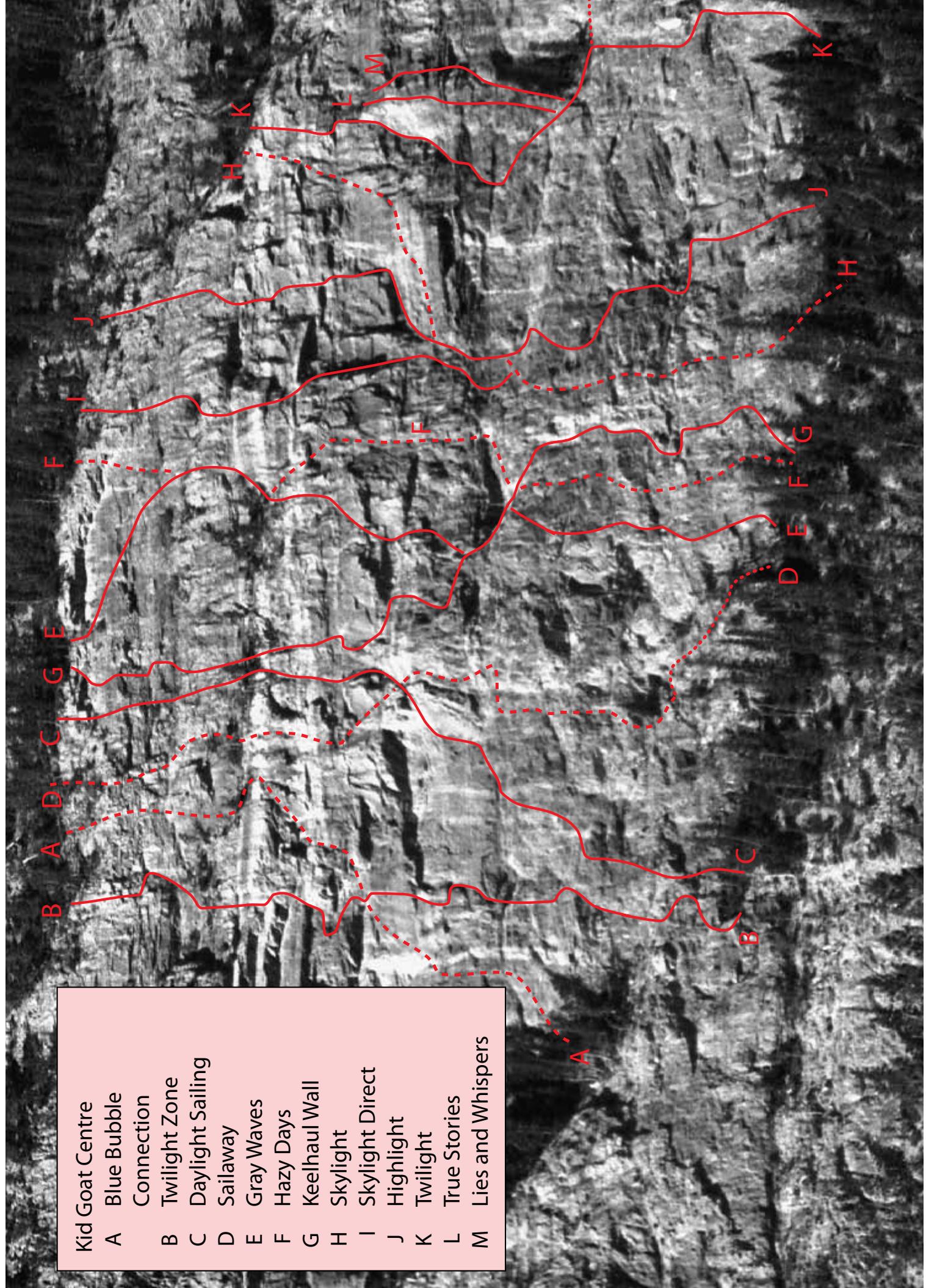
J. Martin & C. Perry, 1979

This interesting but run-out route has some steep moves directly above an impressive drop-off. The climb is in its original condition and pitons are definitely required.

Follow the faint trail down and left from the start of Twilight Zone until below and slightly left of the left edge of the huge roof above the Main Tree Island.

- 1-2) 80 m, 5.3 Climb two easy pitches past the broken ledges traversed by the indirect start to Slingsby's and then good slabby rock to a small bay below the main line of roofs. The same point may be reached from the tree island, as for Slingsby's Overhangs Indirect.
- 3) 35 m, 5.7 Climb up right on a steep slab. From its top, step right into a little bay and then step up right again. Now move back left, stem up to a narrow ledge, traverse right to a corner, and climb easily to a small tree below a roof.
- 4) 40 m, 5.5 Climb up left onto a rib, surmount a short roof, and then continue by a slab and a short, steep wall to easy ground.





## Kid Goat Centre

This area of the cliff extends rightward from the Main Tree Island to Twilight, the last of the traditional-style routes before the beginning of the Right Side. As noted earlier, some of the climbs have been retrofitted and are very popular; others are still seriously run-out.

### Approach

When visiting this area of the cliff for the first time (or even after a number of visits!) it is easy to get lost and have trouble locating the required climb. There are few clearly defined landmarks and many of the features look the same. Approach should be made either by the Lower Trail or the Middle Trail, as described earlier, and the section of cliff reached in each case is described carefully below.

The Lower Trail branches off left into the trees, diagonals up across a small scree slope, and after dropping down slightly (ignore a minor up-trail) and then up slightly, it contours across until the overhung bay at the top of pitch 2 of Keelhaul Wall can be seen directly above. Ignoring a much smaller trail that continues left, climb the hillside using one of several branching trails to reach a small apron of slabby rock at a low point in the cliff. The trail along the base of the cliff leads up and left for about 15 m to the start of Keelhaul Wall and 8 m farther on it reaches a high point below the start of Gray Waves. This section of trail is shown on the topo for the two routes that, in conjunction with the start descriptions given below, may be used to identify certain key features.

The Middle Trail is perhaps the better of the two to use when visiting the cliff for the first time. It branches off left about 30 m higher up the hillside than the Lower Trail and when followed over to the left (ignore minor trails going straight up), it reaches the cliff just below a second apron of slabby rock at the extreme right end of Kid Goat Centre. At this point, the trail along the base of the cliff leads up and right to the Right Side sport climbing area or up and left for 25-30 m to the prominent, left-facing corner at the start of Twilight. (See Highlight/Twilight topo.)

If all else fails, go up to the base of the cliff and follow the trail immediately below the rock to its extreme left end where a small cave marks the start of Twilight Zone (see topo). The Main Tree Island is up and to the left and only a faint trail continues down and farther left to the Upper Left Side.

### Descent

A good trail runs north from the top of the climbs on Kid Goat Centre to the Nanny Goat gully and this is the recommended means of descent. As noted earlier, near the bottom of the gully it is necessary to cross from the Kid Goat side to the Nanny Goat side and then scramble down and left on ledges and easy slabs. Caution is necessary when traversing along the top of the cliff not to dislodge loose rock down onto the climbs. Some of the routes on Kid Goat Centre are fixed for rappel and rope requirements are given on the topos.

## Blue Bubble Connection 140 m, 5.7

J. Martin, G. Spohr & J. Tanner, 1975

This neglected route crosses Twilight Zone at about half height and finishes on interesting rock to the right. It is currently poorly protected but if retrofitted, could become popular.

Begin as for Twilight Zone but scramble up and left to the Main Tree Island and go up its right-hand side to a tree belay a short distance below the upper overhangs. The climb begins at a diagonal fault that trends up right and becomes a small ramp higher up.

- 1) 40 m, 5.6 Climb up to a steep, narrow ramp and from its top trend right over slabs to small ledges.
- 2) 35 m, 5.7 Traverse up and right past a piton to the second belay on Twilight Zone and continue right by a few awkward moves above a roof to a flaky crack. Climb this to broken blocks.
- 3) 30 m, 5.6 Climb a short, steep wall and continue to a tree ledge.
- 4) 35 m Move left to an easy exit or finish directly.

## Twilight Zone\*\* 140 m, 5.6

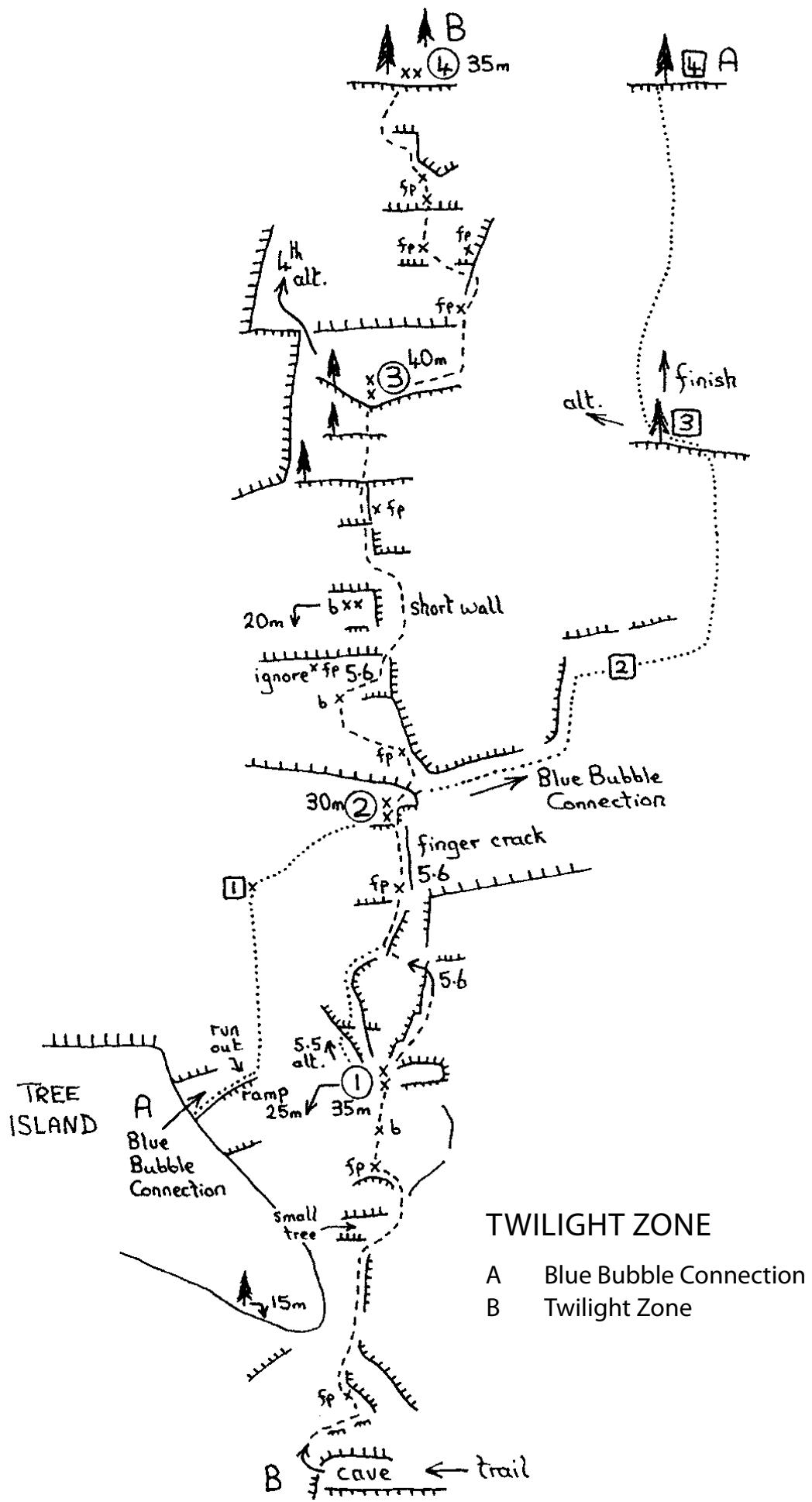
K. Bridgens & T. Jones, 1975

Twilight Zone was one of the earliest routes on Kid Goat and it remains one of the best. It is often used for guiding purposes and the large amounts of fixed gear and bolted stations make it an ideal introduction to the cliff. Some gear is still needed (mainly small) and the crux move on pitch 3 is quite tricky but well protected.

The climb starts at a shallow cave at the far left end of the trail that runs along the base of Kid Goat Centre (see topo and approach description above).

- 1) 35 m, 5.5 From the cave, move up left and then back right again to a short, left-slanting corner. Go up this and continue straight up on easy ground to a left-facing corner with a blocky overhang and small tree above. At the top of the corner go up right past a second overhang and then move left to piton at a small ledge. Climb the steep wall above past a bolt to a bolted station.
- 2) 30 m, 5.6 Step right and climb a right-facing corner until a tricky move back left leads to a small ledge below a prominent, short finger crack (piton). Move up over the overlap and follow the finger crack to a two-bolt belay at a ledge. Alternatively, move left from the belay and climb short corners to ledges below and left of the finger crack (5.5).
- 3) 40 m, 5.6 Climb up right to a left-facing corner (piton) and then traverse left and up, passing a small overhang on its left side, to a bolt. Make an awkward move up right and go up to a break in the overhangs. Climb through this to easier ground (bolted station on the left) and continue up a short wall, past a piton higher up to a tree ledge and two-bolt belay.
- 4) 35 m, 5.5 Move right and climb up past the right side of an overhang (pitons). Step left and continue up on steep ground past more pitons to trees at the top.

## Daylight Sailing 140 m, 5.6



J. Martin, M. Toft & L. Howard, June 1979

This climb has seen little traffic and has not been retrofitted. Pitons are required and in its present state the climb is not recommended.

- 1) 55 m, 5.5 Climb the wall right of Twilight Zone to a bulge at the base of a large slab. Traverse right, layback over the bulge, and move right to the base of a short groove.
- 2) 20 m, 5.3 Climb the groove for a few metres, then traverse right and climb into an easy groove, belaying when convenient.
- 3) 25 m, 5.5 Face climb straight up to a tree ledge (bolted belay at the top of pitch 4 of Keelhaul Wall is just to the right).
- 4) 40 m, 5.6 Scramble up to a ledge below a bulge. Step right, climb the bulge, then step left and continue to the top.

**Sailaway 130 m, 5.6**

J. Martin & J. Tanner, May 1980

Like Daylight Sailing, this climb is currently in its original condition and is not recommended. It climbs the steep wall right of Daylight Sailing, crosses that route at about half height, and then follows a parallel line a short distance to the left. Start by scrambling up the broken ground immediately left of Gray Waves (see topo of that route) to a tree belay below a steep bay.

- 1) 25 m, 5.6 From the upper left side of the bay, move left on a ledge and go up to a second ledge. Move right, climb past a flake and belay on a ledge.
- 2) 45 m, 5.6 Climb straight up to a traverse line below an overhang. Traverse right, climb up to the right of the overhang, and then move back left to a short corner. Climb the corner, then move left across the easy groove of Daylight Sailing and continue up left to a ledge below a small roof.
- 3) 25 m, 5.5 Traverse left by means of a finger crack and climb up to trees.
- 4) 35 m, 5.6 Climb the slab above, then move left below a steep wall to a right-slanting corner. Climb the corner and finish up over a short but tricky bulge.

**Gray Waves\*\* 140 m, 5.8**

J. Martin & L. Howard, April 1980

Retro: J. Josephson & K. Snyder, 1998 (pitch 1); M. Piche & S. Holecz, 1999

This fine route has been recently retrofitted and rerouted slightly making it one of the better multi-pitch climbs on the cliff. No gear is required but some of the bolts are quite widely spaced by sport climbing standards. All stations are equipped with rap anchors (double ropes required), but if the top pitch is done, the recommended descent is to walk off to the right via the Nanny Goat gully.

The climb begins about 8 m left of Keelhaul Wall at the edge of a slab with an arching overhang on its left side. It crosses Keelhaul Wall higher up, breaks through the upper band of overhangs to the right of that route, and then rejoins it at the top.

- 1) 50 m, 5.8 Climb the edge of the slab over two small roofs and then go diagonally right past the third bolt to a break in a long bulge. Climb this and continue up and left to a steep,

exposed wall. A few moves up the wall lead to easier ground and a traverse up and right is made to a bolt belay at the left end of the large ledge below the roof on Keelhaul Wall.

- 2) 30 m, 5.8 Climb steeply up past two pitons at the left end of the roof (as for Keelhaul Wall) and then go up and right above the roof to a bolt. Continue up a steep wall above to a small ledge below the right end of another large roof. Move up and right with difficulty through a break in the roof line and go up to a two-bolt belay on a slab.
- 3) 15 m, 5.7 Traverse right to the base of a shallow groove and make a awkward move up and right to gain easy ground and a bolted station near some trees.
- 4) 20 m, 5.7 Move up and right and make some delicate moves up past the right end of a roof to ledges above. Continue easily up and left past bolts to a bolted station at a small ledge with a dead tree.
- 5) 25 m, 5.5 Traverse diagonally left across a slab following a line of bolts until a short groove reached below the left end of a large roof. Go up the left edge of the groove to a tree belay at the top. (Note: the bolted station a short distance to the left is at the top of Keelhaul Wall).

**Hazy Days** 140 m, 5.8

B. Keller & J. Martin, July 1979

This obscure route climbs the lower wall between Gray Waves and Keelhaul Wall, moves right past the large roof above the second belay of the latter route, and continues directly up the wall above. The first pitch has no fixed gear and the Gray Waves start is currently more logical. The pitch above the roof may be worthwhile and probably requires retrobolting.

- 1) 50 m, 5.6 Move up and slightly right from the "KHW" sign to a break in a lower bulge and continue up past a small bush to a long roof. Climb over this about 6-8 m right of Gray Waves and go up to a shattered, left-facing corner. Follow the corner to the second, bolted station on Keelhaul Wall, at the ledge below the first large roof.
- 2) 45 m, 5.8 Traverse right on ledges below the roof to a pale scar and then make some tricky moves up a steep section. Continue by sustained face climbing, stepping left at a small overlap to gain easier ground and the third belay of Gray Waves.
- 3) 45 m, 5.5 Continue up Gray Waves but go straight up to the top where it diagonals left across the slab.

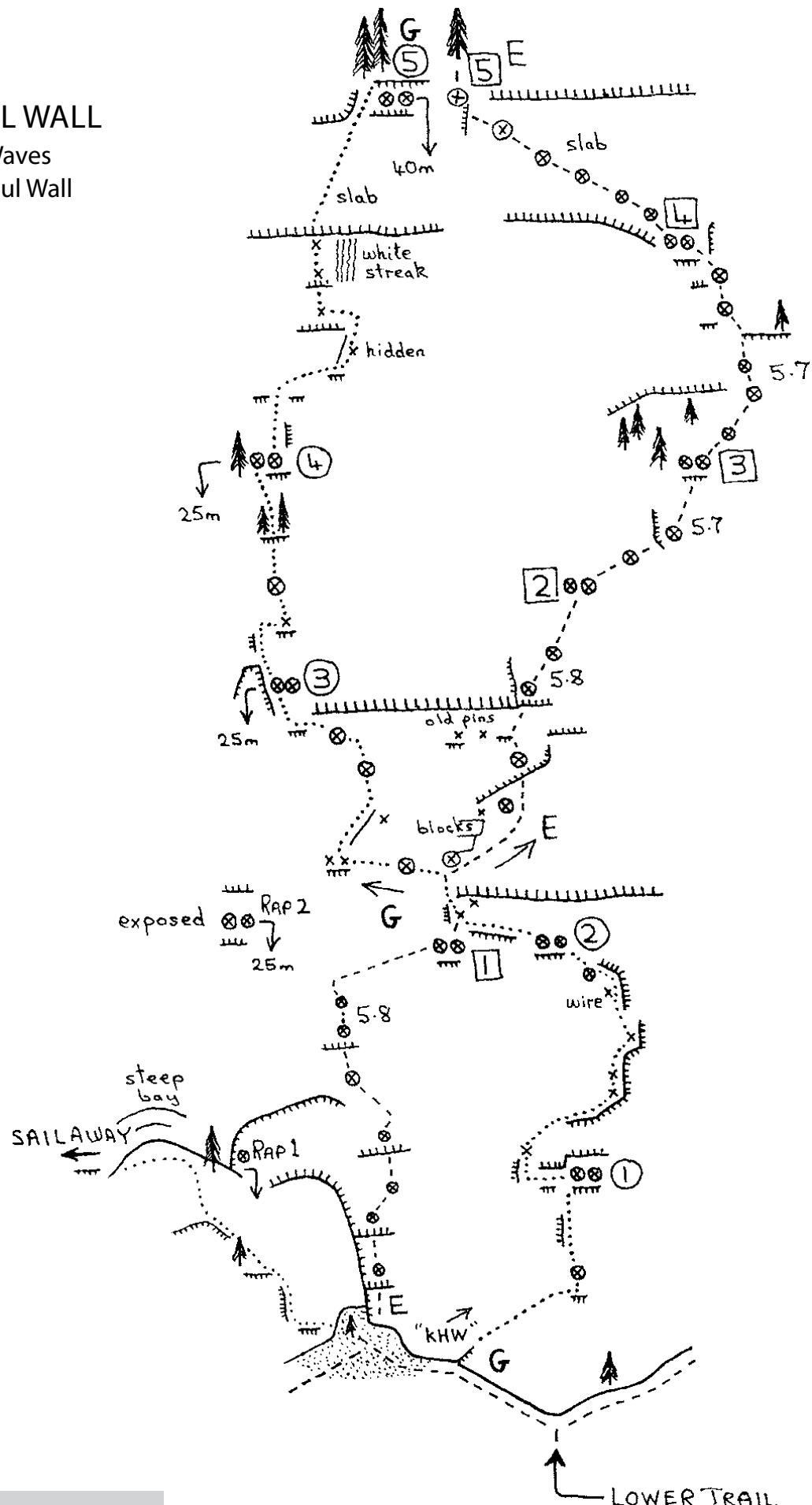
**Keelhaul Wall\*\*** 155 m, 5.6

J. Martin & C. Perry, May 1975

Keelhaul Wall was the first route climbed on the cliff and is now a popular classic with a lot of

## KEELHAUL WALL

E Gray Waves  
G Keelhaul Wall



fixed gear and bolted stations. Some gear (mainly small) should be taken to back up the fixed pitons. The recommended descent is along the top of the cliff to the right although the climb is fixed for rappel. Double ropes are required unless the top pitch is not climbed and the left-hand rappel route is used. The latter is potentially dangerous since the "Rap 2" station (see topo) is difficult to find, can be barely reached with a 25 m rappel, and is positioned at the lip of a large, scary overhang. This descent is not recommended for beginners.

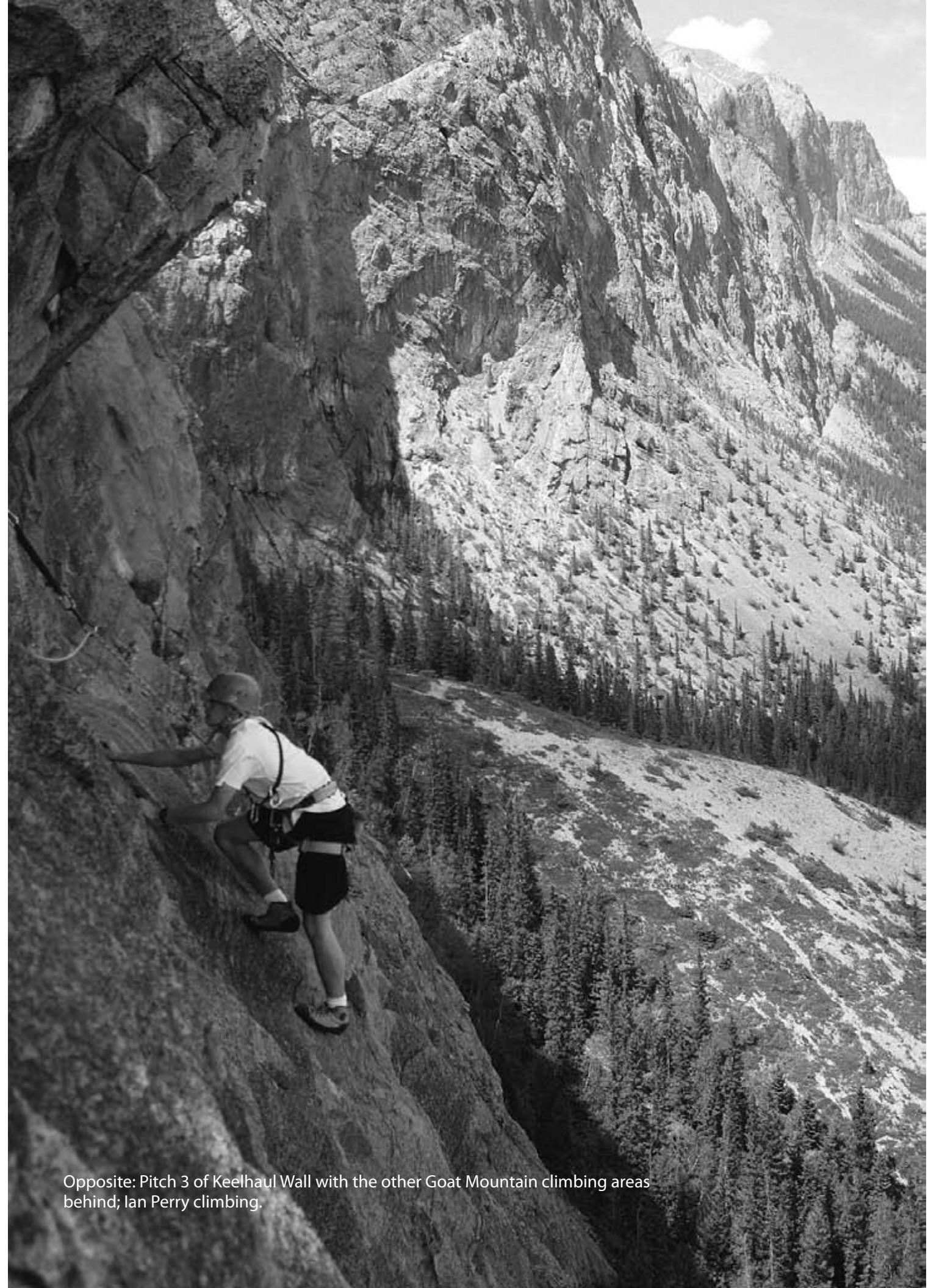
The start of the climb is marked by the letters "KHW" painted on a small slab of rock about 2 m above the trail. The letters are not easily seen, however, and are easily passed by. One pitch up the cliff a prominent, left-facing corner leads up to the right-hand side of a large roof.

- 1) 25 m, 5.4 Follow a diagonal line up right to small ledges around a faint rib. Move up to a bolt and continue up a small corner to a bolt belay below an overlap.
- 2) 35 m, 5.6 Traverse left below the overlap for about 7 m to a rib, move up (piton), and then go diagonally up and right to the base of a large, left-facing corner. Climb this and the continuation corner above until it closes and then exit left past a bolt to ledges. Belay at the bolted station below a large roof.
- 3) 30 m, 5.6 Traverse left and up to a rib where the roof ends (pitons), move up to a textbook gear placement, and then go across left and up slightly (on rock that inspired the name) past a bolt to a small vegetated ledge (pitons). Follow a faint groove up right past a piton to a bolt and then move up and left to a second bolt below the left end of a large bulging overhang. Traverse steeply left below this and go up to a sloping ledge and bolt belay.
- 4) 25 m, 5.5 Move up left and then step right to a ledge (piton). Continue up a short wall past a bolt to easy ground and a bolt belay at the second tree ledge.
- 5) 40 m, 5.5 Climb easy rock up and right to a piton in a shallow groove below a white-streaked wall. Move up and then left to a piton and continue up a small rib past another piton to a break in the roof line just left of the white streaks. Pull up on to the slab (piton) and continue up past a rappel station to a tree belay at the top.

### Skylight 125 m, 5.6

J. Martin, C. Shank & D. Strand, June 1979

To the right of the corner on Keelhaul Wall is a faint, rounded buttress with a small apron of rock below. Skylight goes up the right side of the buttress, breaks through the central band of overhangs and moves onto a large, prominent slab at about two-thirds height. Currently, the climb is in poor condition with almost no fixed gear and some tricky routefinding. Highlight,



Opposite: Pitch 3 of Keelhaul Wall with the other Goat Mountain climbing areas behind; Ian Perry climbing.

which starts to the right and climbs the left side of the "Great Slab," is in better shape and is the recommended route on this section of the cliff. Nonetheless, careful retrofitting could probably make Skylight a worthwhile climb.

Starting on the right side of the lower apron, scramble up and left (easy 5th class) for about 30 m to gain the buttress and then belay where the rock steepens (pitons required).

- 1) 45 m, 5.5 Climb the buttress nearly to the central line of overhangs and then slant up right to a break (the same one climbed by Highlight—see topo). Pull over the overhang to the bolt belay on Highlight at the base of the Great Slab.
- 2) 50 m, 5.6 Make a long traverse right across the slab, moving up slightly, to its right-hand edge. From a blocky ledge (piton), climb a short rib and then go up and right to a groove (piton). Continue up the groove to easy ground and a tree belay at a large ledge. Originally, a more diagonal line was taken across the right-hand side of the slab but this is run-out. The pitch needs retrofitting.

Scramble to the top.

### Skylight Direct 140 m, 5.7

C. Dale, J. Martin & C. Perry, May 1980

This climb is in similar condition to Skylight and is currently not recommended.

- 1) 45 m, 5.5 Start as for Skylight, but break through the overhanging band by a short hand crack to the left of that route.
- 2) 45 m, 5.7 Move right and climb a short, steep wall, then continue right to an obvious groove. Climb the groove and two short walls above it to a ledge.
- 3) 20 m Climb easy slabs to the top.

### Highlight\* 140 m, 5.8

C. Perry & J. Martin, May 1979

Highlight is one of the finer routes on the crag with a wide variety of sustained and interesting climbing. Recent bolting has produced a safer route that for years contained a number of deadly run-outs. Take a small rack (wires and small-medium cams) and some long slings. Two 50 m ropes are needed to rappel the route (recommended) and are useful to reduce rope drag on pitch 4.

Start about 50 m right of Keelhaul Wall on the opposite side of a shallow buttress where a slab leads up to a ledge with two small trees below the first line of overhangs. The climb begins at a high point in the trail and about 30 m left of the prominent, left-facing corner of Twilight.

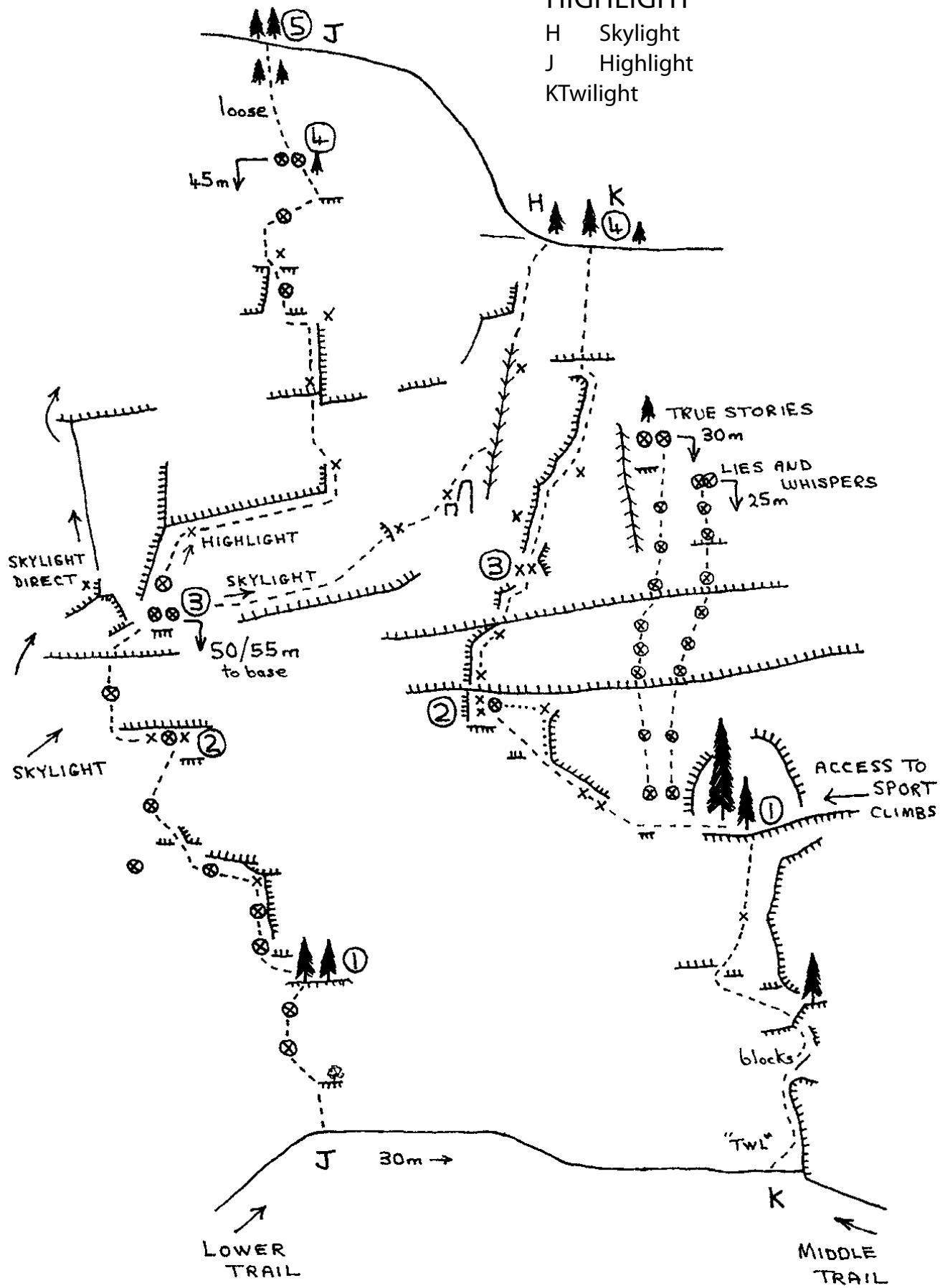
- 1) 25 m, 5.4 Scramble up to ledges 5 m off the ground and continue up a nice slab on the right past two bolts to a tree belay on the ledge above.
- 2) 30 m, 5.7 Move left to a bolt on the overhang above. Climb the overhang into a corner and follow it past a bolt to a piton. Traverse left past a bolt and then either go diagonally up left over a small overlap to a bolt or continue traversing left to an intermediate bolt low down and then go up to the same point. Climb up and right slightly to a fixed belay on a ledge.

## HIGHLIGHT

H Skylight

J Highlight

KTwilight



- 3) 15 m, 5.7 Move left to a break in the overhangs and then up to a bolt. Climb over the bulge into the corner system above. Move up and right a short distance to a two-bolt station at the bottom-left side of a great slab. From here it is a 55 m rappel to the ground or 50 m to easy ledges.
- 4) 45 m, 5.8 Step up the slab to a bolt and traverse up and right below a large roof. Enter a corner on the right side (piton) of the roof and climb up to a smaller overhang. Climb this and a sustained groove above (piton) and at the top move left to a steep wall with a prominent right-facing layback crack. Either make a long reach past a bolt to surmount the wall or move left and use the crack to easier ground (piton). Continue up a short wall (bolt) moving right onto a ledge below a broken slab. Climb the slab to a three-bolt belay/rappel station next to a small tree.
- 5) 25 m, 5.6 A loose and scruffy slab leads to the top. This is not recommended if you plan to rappel the route.

Twilight 130 m, 5.7

J. McIsaac & R. Coley, 1975

Twilight begins up a large, left-facing corner at the right end of Kid Goat Centre. It is the last of the full length traditional routes before the beginning of the Right Side sport climbing area. The corner leads up to a bay with big trees about halfway up the cliff and is the first prominent feature on the left when using the Middle Trail approach. The climb has some fixed pitons but is still run-out and loose in places.

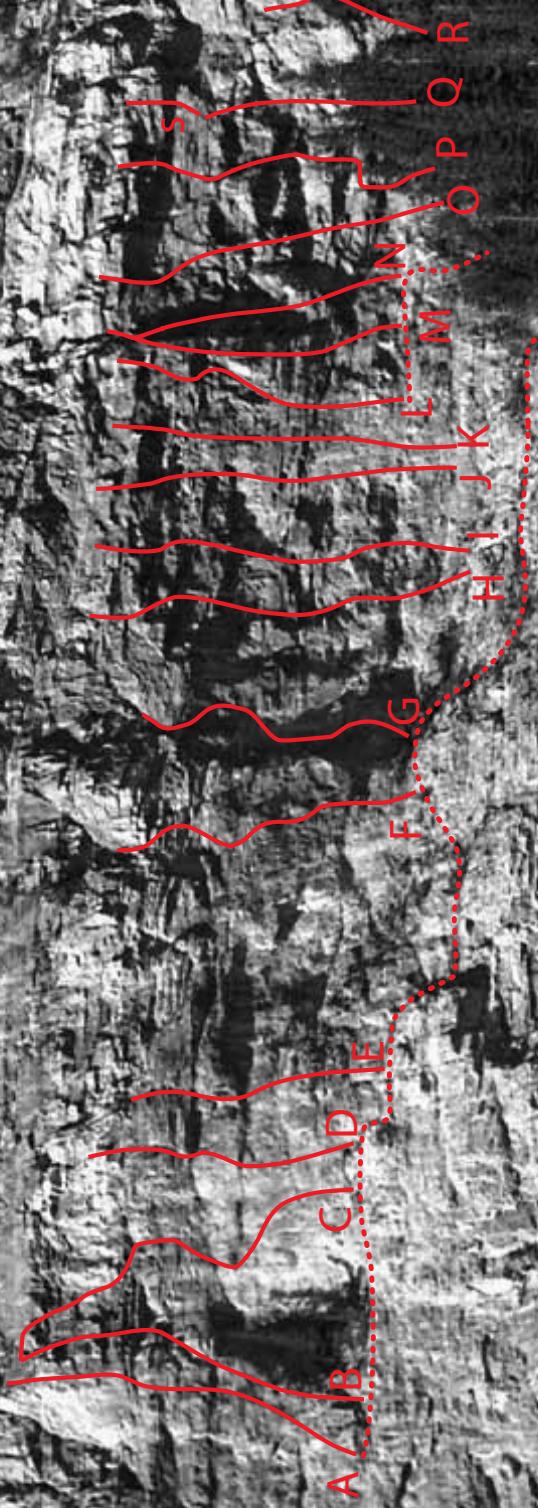
- 1) 45 m, 5.5 Climb the corner, detouring left past a roof at about half height, to the tree bay.
- 2) 25 m, 5.6 Move left around a rib beneath the sport routes Lies and Whispers and True Stories to a small roof that slants up left. Climb up under the roof (pitons) to its left end and then either move up to a bulge (piton) and traverse left to a small belay ledge, or reach the ledge directly by climbing diagonally up and left.
- 3) 15 m, 5.6 Climb the bulge above, then traverse right below a second, larger bulge until it is possible to pull up into a bay. Move up to the base of a groove and belay at a bolt.
- 4) 45 m, 5.7 Climb the layback crack above and right, go up over a small bulge, then follow slabs to the top.

4 alt.) 45 m, 5.6 Move up and left and climb a groove that leads to the top of Skylight.

## Right Side

The Right Side is an exclusively sport climbing area concentrated on a steep band of excellent rock that runs across the middle third of the crag. It can be reached either from the Middle Trail by moving up and right below the apron at the base of the cliff (see Highlight/Twilight topo) or by using the Nanny Goat approach and then traversing left across the gully and under the far right end of the cliff. Another alternative is the gravel/scree path that continues directly up the rounded hillside from where the normal approach turns off left. This is the Upper Trail that goes almost to the top of the hillside and then cuts in left through trees to reach the cliff at the beginning of the main ledge system (see topo). It is now an unsightly but established means of descent but is not recommended as an approach.

The climbs on the Right Side either start at ground level at the far right end, or are accessed from a ledge system that runs across left to the tree bay on Twilight. The accompanying topos give the necessary information and are essentially the same as those published in the Sport Climbs guidebook by Martin and Jones. It is worth noting that the ledge system is very exposed at one point and roping up is recommended (bolt protection would be useful here). Also, the climbs generally have no fixed belay at the start and it is necessary to scramble up and clip the first bolt. Helmets are recommended as the descent trail used by other climbs runs across the top of the cliff. Descent is by rappel but many climbs require two ropes. First ascent credits are given in the Sport Climbs guidebook.

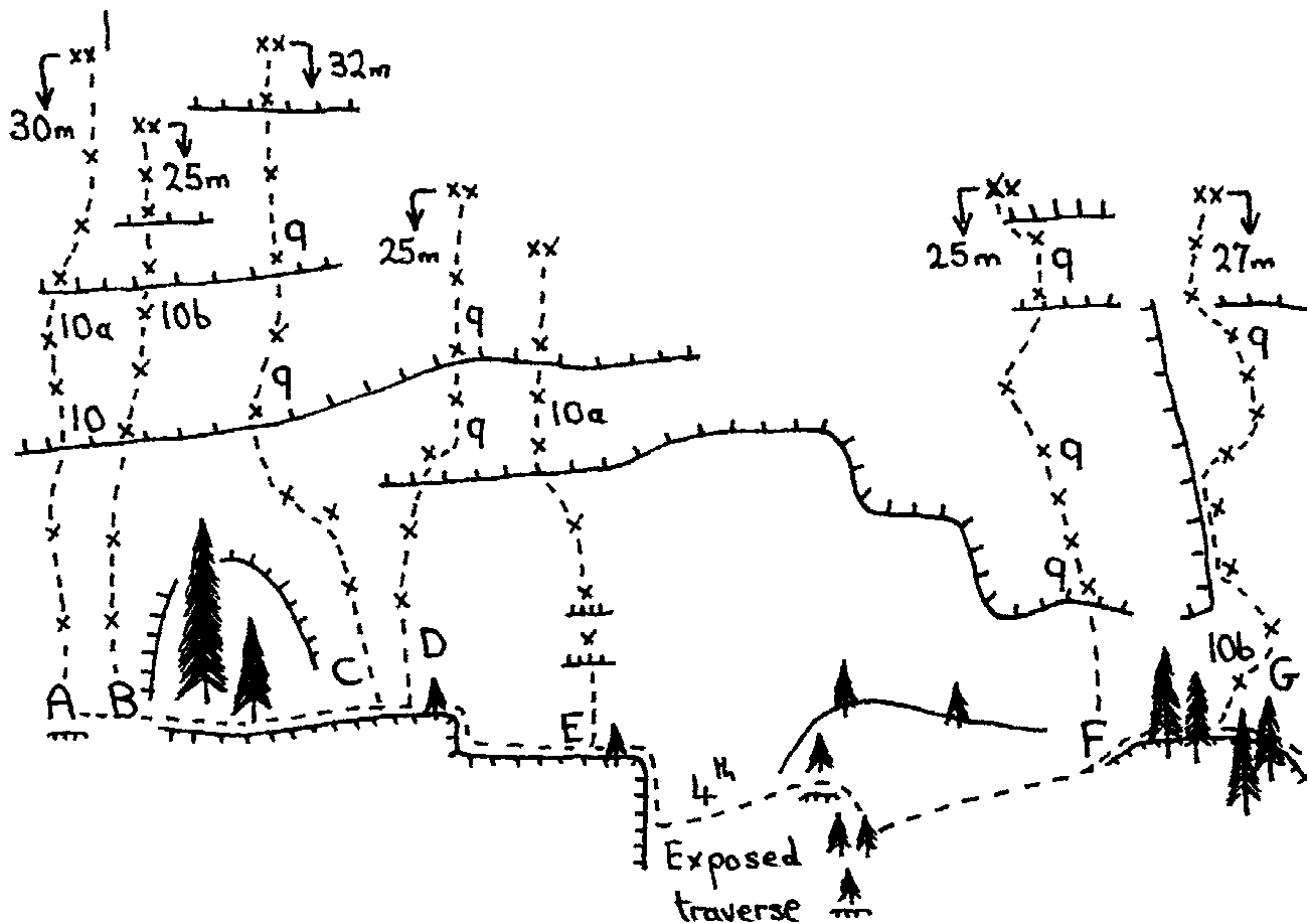


### Kid Goat—Right Side

A	True Stories	G	Smoking Mirror	L	Talk Dirty To Me
B	Lies and Whispers	H	Wave Goodbye	M	Takedown
C	Coarse and Juggy	I	Max Headroom	N	Feeding Frenzy
D	Downtreader	J	Diehard	O	Divers From The
E	The Swell	K	New Hope For		Anaerobic Zone
F	Half Life				The Dead

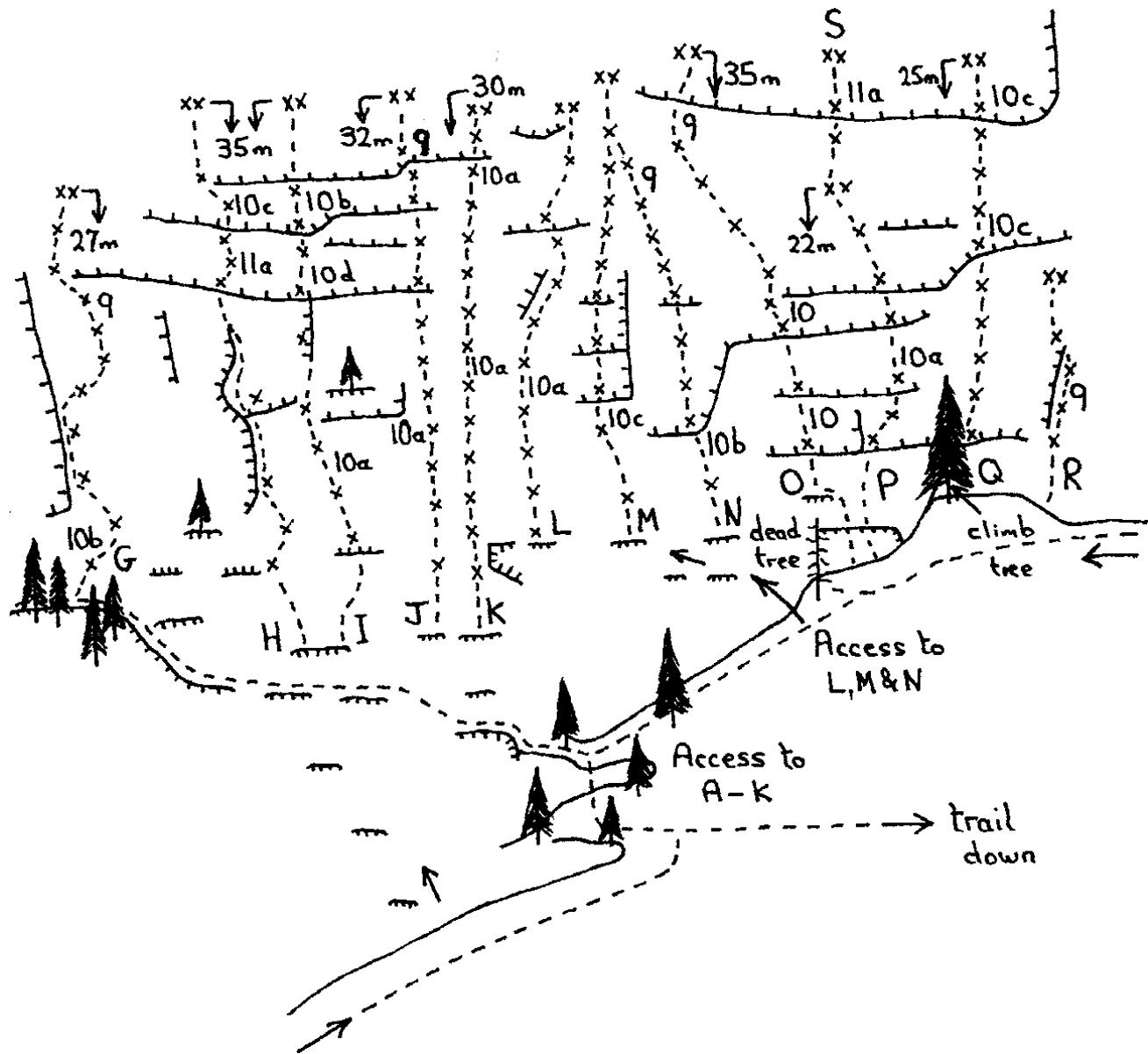
P Shakedown  
Q Syzygy  
R Slow Hand  
S Breakdown

P Shakedown  
Q Syzygy  
R Slow Hand  
S Breakdown



## KID GOAT

A	True Stories*	10a/b
B	Lies and Whispers*	10b
C	Coarse and Juggy**	9
D	Dawntreader*	9
E	The Swell*	10a
F	Half Life*	9
G	Smoking Mirror**	10b



G	Smoking Mirror**	10b
H	Wave Goodbye**	11a
I	Max Headroom**	10d
J	Diehard*	10a
K	New Hope for the Dead**	10a
L	Talk Dirty to Me**	10a
M	Takedown**	10c
N	Feeding Frenzy**	10b
O	Divers from the Anaerobic Zone*	10b
P	Shakedown*	10a
Q	Syzygy**	10c
R	Slow Hand	9
S	Breakdown*	11a

# NANNY GOAT

Nanny Goat is steeper and less broken than Kid Goat and generally the climbs are more difficult. The quality of the rock is quite variable and the routes, which consist primarily of face climbing, vary from mediocre to excellent. Like Kid Goat, it has both modern bolted routes and run-out traditional-style climbs, some of which are quite serious. Recently, a somewhat controversial route, Broken Boys, was added to the Great White Hope area. Its extensive use of bolt protection was in marked contrast to the earlier climbs in the same area and opinions vary as to whether this constituted "better use of the rock" or "sacrilege." Both One Night Stand and Great White Hope were established on-sight with minimal bolt protection (two bolts on each route), the original idea being that this impressive wall should be developed using traditional climbing styles. The modern route Broken Boys respected this to some extent. Bolts were used sparingly on most pitches and the line of bolts on the main pitch is sufficiently distant from the two earlier climbs not to interfere. The future direction of the crag is uncertain, some retrobolting is probably worthwhile (see notes in route descriptions), but perhaps Nanny Goat will survive as one crag where bolts are used sparingly and an older climbing ethic is largely preserved.

Most of the cliff faces east (this section is shown in the photograph). Prominent features are the smooth, dished wall of Great White Hope located just left of centre and a rounded buttress on the right with a steep, roughly semi-circular face, bounded by overhangs, in its lower section. Farther right, the cliff curves round into the gully (Coire Dubh) and becomes less steep. There are two sport climbing areas (Predator and Overnight Sensation), but the remaining climbs have little fixed gear and in most cases require pitons.

## Approach

Using the normal approach for the Goat Mountain climbing areas, walk past the east side of the landfill site and locate the dirt road just beyond its northern boundary. Continue up the left fork of the road for about 250 m until it begins to curve left toward Kid Goat and a horse trail branches off to the right. At this point there are two separate approaches to the cliff. For climbs on the left-hand side, as far right as One Night Stand, continue along the road and use the Kid Goat approach. Otherwise, turn right onto the horse trail that goes through to the meadows directly below the cliff.

## Kid Goat Approach

Follow the road to the small gravel pit and continue up the narrowing track for about 100 m to a 1 m-high jagged boulder on the left (see Kid Goat section). A small trail, marked by a cairn, contours off to the right opposite the boulder and eventually reaches a dry, indistinct creekbed in the lower part of the drainage between Kid Goat and Nanny Goat. The trail, which is poorly defined at this point, turns uphill and follows the left side of the creekbed at first and then crosses over to the right-hand (north) bank. Higher up the impressive, dished wall of Great White Hope comes into view and a short distance below the cliff, above a small rock slab close to the creek, the trail angles up right to reach the base just before of the Predator climbing area.

## Meadows Approach

A wide, shallow valley with open meadows runs parallel to Nanny Goat and Goat Slabs and is bounded on the east by a long, rounded hill (an esker). From the road to Kid Goat, the horse



## Nanny Goat

A	Predator	C	Overnight Sensation Area	F	One Night Stand	I	Skywalk
B	Crapuleuse	D	Broken Boys	G	Deception	J	Third Degree
		E	Great White Hope	H	Hesitation	K	Chocolate Frog

trail zigzags right through the trees, passes through a small gap between the start of the long esker and a shorter one to the south, and then emerges into open meadows below Nanny Goat. Climbs on the northern section of the cliff are best reached directly from the meadows via an open, rounded hill and the scree slopes above.

## Descent

Soft scree slopes lead south into the Nanny Goat gully, near the bottom of which it is necessary to cross over from the Kid Goat side and scramble down and left (north) on ledges and easy slabs to reach the base of the cliff.

The Predator area is located immediately right of where the southern approach trail reaches the  
**Predator Area**

the trail along the base and a large, right-slanting corner above. Most of the routes were established during the early years of bolted short routes in the Bow Valley and some require natural gear to supplement the bolt protection. Two ropes are needed for rappel. The climbing varies from good to excellent, making it a fine area to spend a day or combine with the routes on Kid Goat that are only a few minutes away.

**Peep Show\*\*** 40 m, 5.10b

J. Martin & L. Howard, 1988

From the first bolt of Blue Movie, move left and go up to a steep wall. Sustained climbing up the wall leads to a bolt anchor on a ledge.

**Blue Movie\*** 40 m, 5.10b

J. Martin, S. Dougherty & M. Zimmerman, April 1987

Start about 12 m up and left of the large tree, below the left end of a right-slanting ramp. Climb easily to the base of the ramp, go up past a bolt, and then trend up right on easy rock to a bolt below an overhang. Climb up and right and then move over the overhang onto a steep wall. Go up this, making a difficult move higher up and then step right to a ledge. Climb a short corner and finish up a grey wall (bolt) to a bolt belay. It is possible to continue to the top by a 5.5 pitch to a big cave and then a left-slanting, slabby fourth class pitch.

**Fadeout\*** 30 m, 5.10a

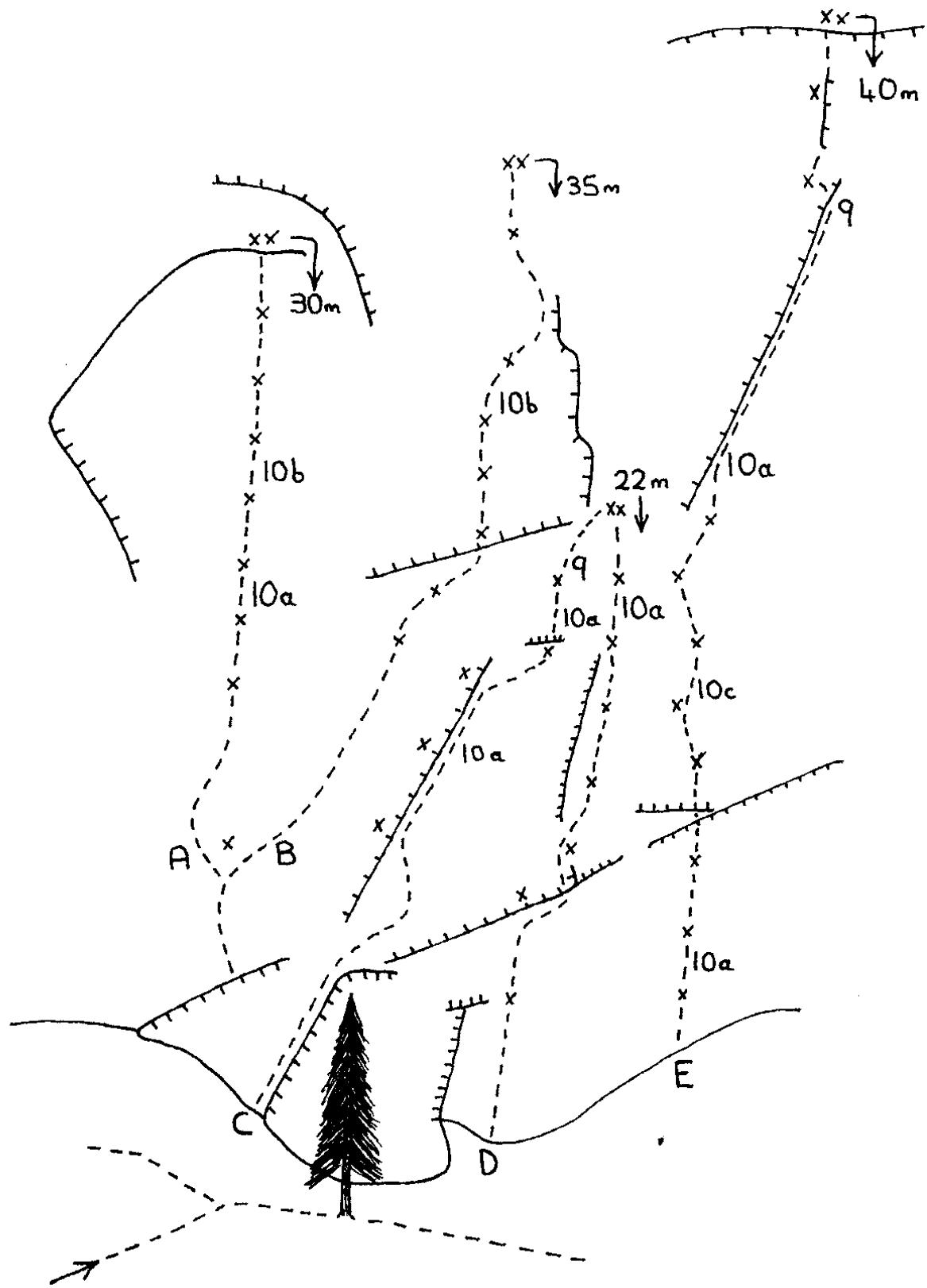
J. Martin & S. Stahl, 1988

Starting just left of the tree, scramble up to a prominent, right-slanting corner with a smooth left wall. Continue to the top of the corner, traverse right, and then go up and right to a bolted station. It is possible to continue to Blue Movie from the top of the corner, making a more sustained climb.

**Freeze Frame\*** 25 m, 5.10a

J. Martin, 1993

Begin just right of the tree at a small, right-facing corner of shattered rock. Climb easily past a



### PREDATOR AREA

A	Peep Show**	10b	
B	Blue Movie*	10b	Rocks 1-2
C	Fadeout*	10a	Rock 3
D	Freeze Frame*	10a	
E	Predator***	10c	Rocks 1-8, Friends 1-4

bolt to a diagonal break, move over the overlap, and continue up the steep wall above to the fixed station on Fadeout.

**Predator\*\*\* 45 m, 5.10c**

J. Martin & L. Ostrander, May 1987

This excellent route follows an obvious leaning layback crack that starts about 25 m above the ground. Start directly below the crack and climb a steep juggy wall to a small ledge. Continue up with difficulty to the base of the crack and at the top of the corner, make an awkward exit left onto a sloping ledge. Climb a short corner to reach a fixed station.

**Crapuleuse 140 m, 5.7**

C. Scott & D. Vockeroth, 1970

This was the first route done on Nanny Goat and also predates any of the Kid Goat climbs. It goes up a shallow buttress of broken rock at the left edge of the large dished wall of Great White Hope, about 150 m right of the Predator area. Probably, it has never been repeated and its name is less than encouraging.

The route begins just right of the toe of the buttress directly below a small pillar at about one-third height.

- 1) 40 m Climb up to a tree in the chimney on the left side of the pillar.
- 2) 30 m Traverse left a short distance on a steep wall until it is possible to step up to a block. Climb to the top of the block and step up left (5.7), then gain a corner above. Climb the corner to its top and cross a short slab to a big tree ledge.
- 3) 35 m Climb up to the right of the ledge to an overhang and pass this by a short steep wall (5.6) on the right. Continue easily to a big ledge.
- 4) 35 m Move left on the ledge and make an ascending traverse left on a ramp. A few thin moves lead up from the ramp to a ledge below a slab. From the right end of the slab, climb a short steep wall and then scramble to ledges.
- 5) Scramble easily to the top.

## Overnight Sensation Area

Near the middle of the dished central wall is a prominent, light-coloured water streak that is the line of Great White Hope. Below and right of the water streak is a water-polished, roughly triangular facet of rock set at an angle to the main cliff and facing south. This is the Overnight Sensation area, scene of the following seven routes. The climbs here are short and technical with bolt protection. They were established in the early days of sport climbing when bolts were used sparingly and some of them now seem quite run-out, particularly given the smooth nature of the rock. Several are usually wet until midsummer.

To reach the Overnight Sensation area and the longer climbs nearby, continue north from Predator staying close to the base of the crag and then move up around a small cliff band and cross a scree basin below the Great White Hope wall directly to the base of climbs.

### Nightland\* 25 m, 5.9

J. Martin & B. Keller, June 1985

Starting below and left of a prominent left-facing corner, climb easily up to a bolt. Make a few awkward moves left and then climb up past a second bolt to a small ledge. Continue up a little corner and a steep wall to another small ledge; then slant right up a ramp to a two-bolt belay at the top of the wall. Small wired nuts are required on the upper section of the climb. An alternative start (S. Dougherty, 1986) begins farther left and slants up right without protection to the second bolt.

### Bedtime Story\* 25 m, 5.10b

J. Martin & S. Dougherty, August 1986

This excellent climb takes the prominent corner mentioned under Nightland. Start as for Nightland. From the first ledge, move right to the base of the corner and climb it with increasing difficulty past four bolts to the ramp at the top of Nightland.

### Overnight Sensation 25 m, 5.10d

W. Lee & J. Martin, June 1983

A serious and sustained climb. Starting in the centre of the rock, climb easily to a bolt (small carabiner hole). Climb a difficult section to a second bolt (groundfall potential). Step right to a little ledge and climb difficult rock past three more bolts. Trend left up a little corner to finish.

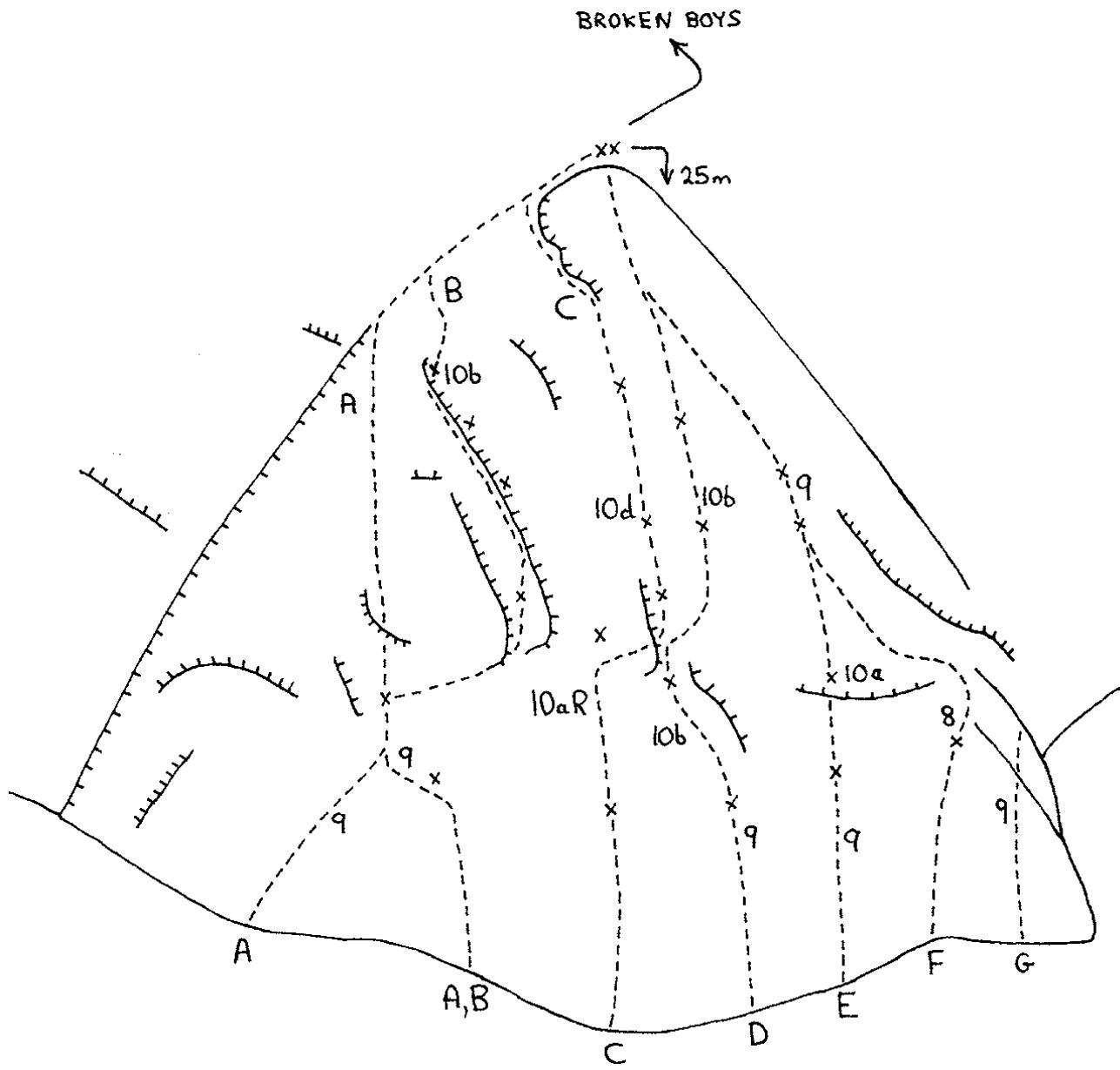
### Into The Night 25 m, 5.10b

J. Martin & S. Dougherty, August 1986

This technical and sustained route lies just right of Overnight Sensation. Climb a tricky slab and steep wall past two bolts to the little ledge on Overnight Sensation. Move right and climb a black water streak past two more bolts to the top.

### Night Sensation 25 m, 5.10d

Not a separate route, this combination of the start of Into The Night and the finish of Overnight Sensation is the best climb on the outcrop.



### OVERNIGHT SENSATION AREA

A	Nightland*	9	small Rocks
B	Bedtime Story*	10b	
C	Overnight Sensation	10d	
D	Into the Night*	10b	
D/C	Night Sensation**	10d	
E	Evening Star*	10a	
F	Nightcap	9	Friend 1.5
G	V=at	9	Solo climb

### Evening Star 25 m, 5.10a

J. Martin & S. Dougherty, August 1986

This entertaining climb takes the prominent overhang near the right side of the rock and begins just left of a prominent dark streak. Climb a slick slab to a bolt, grope over the overhang past a second bolt, and then continue past two more bolts, trending left to finish.

### Nightcap 30 m, 5.9

J. Martin & S. Dougherty, 1986

Climb the short dihedral at the right end of the outcrop, avoiding the overhang at its top to the right. Move up left across a steep slab to the third bolt of Evening Star and finish as for that route. Take a #1 1/2 Friend.

### V=at 8 m, 5.9

S. Dougherty & J. Martin, 1986

Lacking protection or a top rope station, this micro-climb must be soloed. Climb the clean wall right of Nightcap, starting near the centre.

## Great White Hope Area

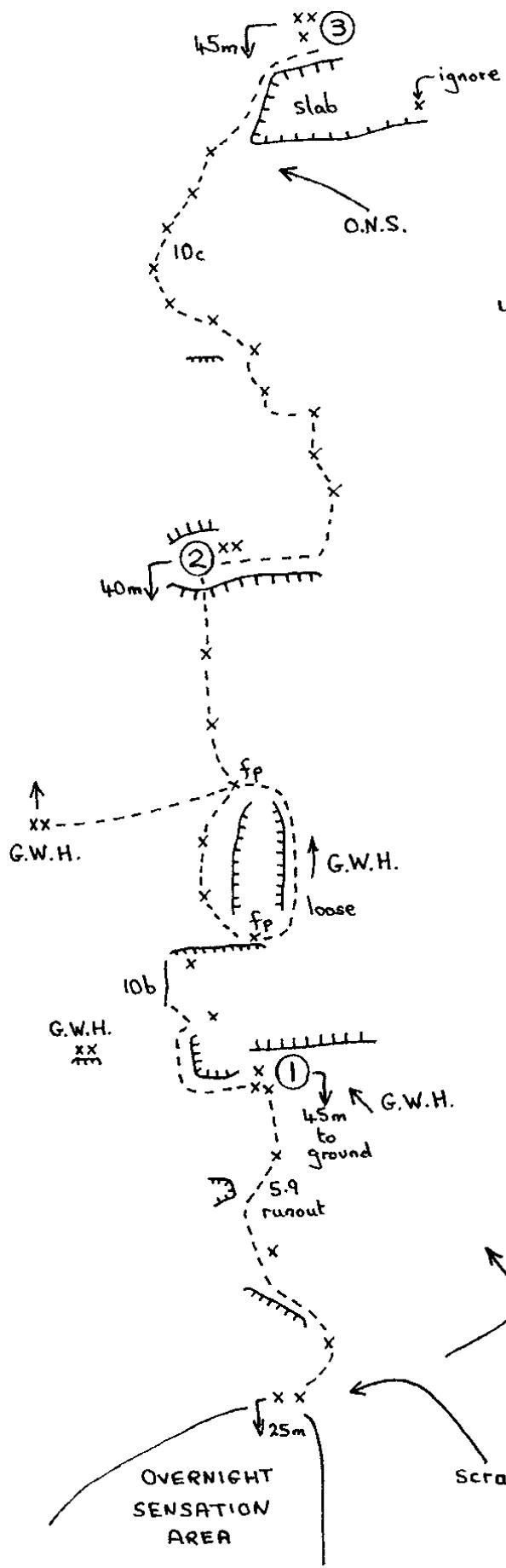
### Broken Boys 170 m, 5.10c

J. Josephson & S. Steiner, July 1998

This modern route connects the top of Overnight Sensation with the second pitch of Great White Hope, follows that route for half a pitch, and continues straight up the crag to join One Night Stand for the final pitches. It is entirely bolt protected although a small rack is useful. The bolts are used quite sparingly in places, most notably on the first pitch that is quite run-out and some of the easier sections higher up. The sustained crux pitch, however, has a total of 13 bolts. The climb is equipped for rappel using two 50 m ropes.

Begin to the left of Great White Hope at the fixed station at the top of the Overnight Sensation area. The station may be reached by any of the lower climbs (Night Sensation is good value) or by scrambling partway up the rib on the right, as for Great White Hope, and then traversing down and left (exposed) to the anchors.

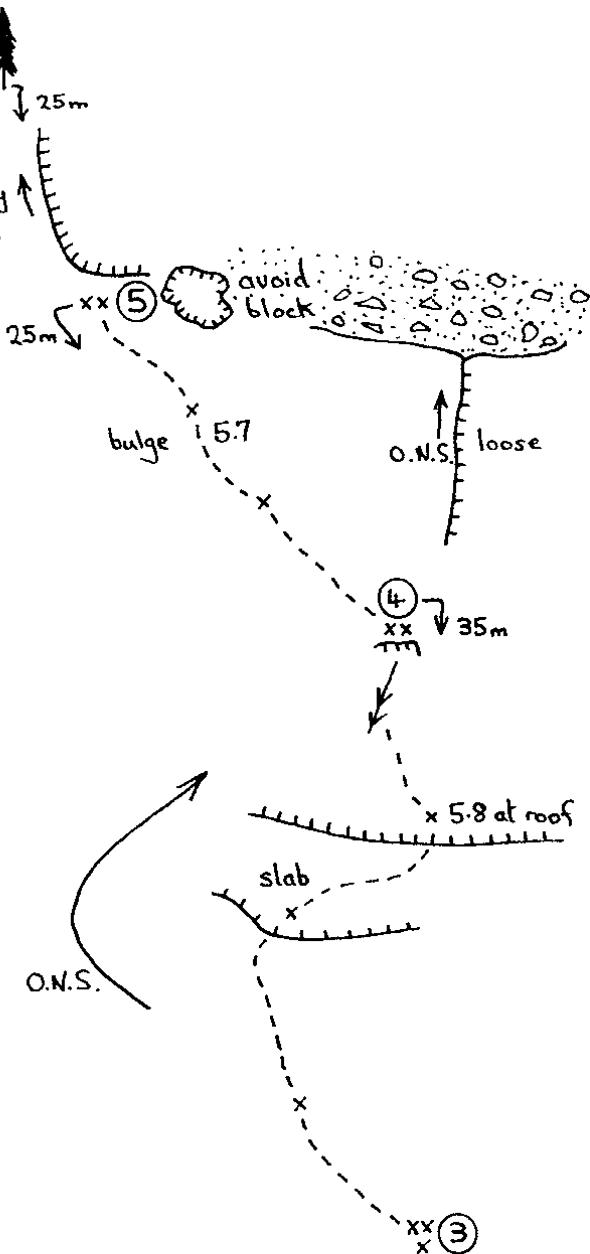
- 1) 25 m, 5.9 R From the station at the top of the Overnight Sensation area, move up and right on easier ground to the first of three bolts. Above the bolt follow small ramps through excellent rock to a second bolt. Climb up and left over a hollow-sounding flake and then go back right past a third bolt and up to a bolted belay below a roof.
- 2) 40 m, 5.10b The climb continues partway up the second pitch of Great White Hope and

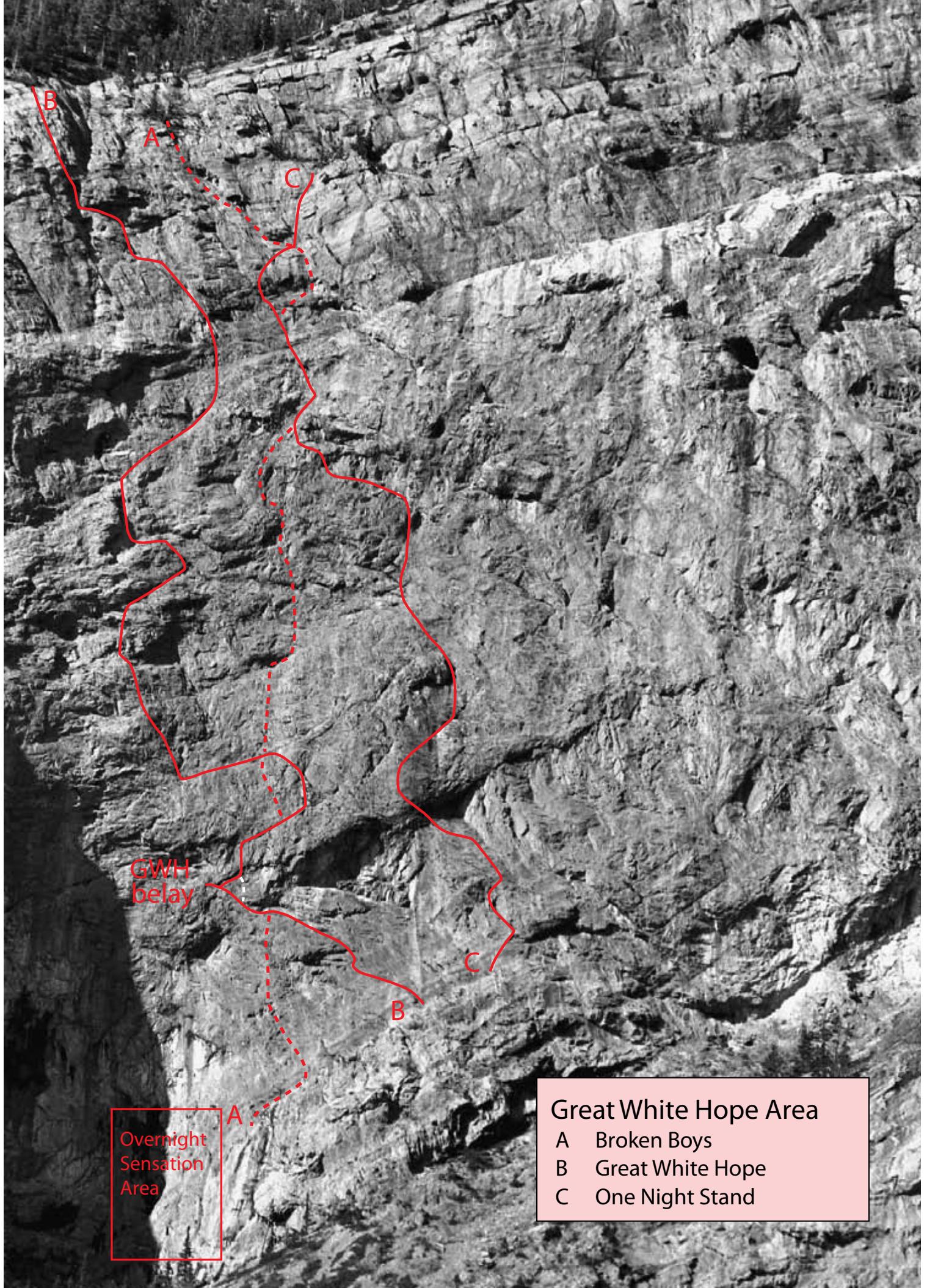


## BROKEN BOYS

G.W.H. GREAT WHITE HOPE

O.N.S. ONE NIGHT STAND





then goes straight up. Step down and move left under a bulge and then up a shallow crack to beneath a roof (bolt). Step left (ignore a piton out left) and climb a steep layback crack to a horizontal break. Move right past a bolt and then up to easier ground (piton). Instead of moving across to the right side of a shallow, shattered pillar, as for Great White Hope, climb the clean face left of the pillar (bolts) to reach the piton where Great White Hope traverses left. Continue straight up on excellent rock to a comfortable belay in a small scoop.

- 3) 45 m, 5.10c Move out the right side of the scoop and step up to a bolt. Continue up a steep wall following bolts and trending up into a steep, open corner. Step left from the top of the corner and continue up a steep wall (crux) that changes to an easier trough leading to a belay at a ledge. One Night Stand joins the route near the top of this pitch.
- 4) 35 m, 5.8 Follow the natural break up and left on excellent rock to a steep slab. At the top of the slab step left and move onto an overlap beneath a big roof. Traverse the slab beneath the roof back right to a slight break. Excellent climbing over the roof (bolt at the lip) leads to easier ground above. Climb a corner to a fixed station.
- 5) 25 m, 5.7 Continue up and left across steep slabs to a fixed anchor in a small alcove beneath a rotten pillar.
- 6) 25 m, 4th If rappelling the route, descend from here. Otherwise step left and continue up easy slabs to trees at the top.

### Great White Hope 185 m, 5.10b

G. Powter & B. Wyvill, September 1987

This serious route climbs the water streak near the centre of the smooth main wall. It remained the "last great problem" on Nanny Goat for many years and, in keeping with its classic nature, was finally lead essentially on-sight. The initial overhanging section is avoided by a rising traverse from the right and the climb joins the water streak on the upper wall partway up pitch 3. With the addition of Broken Boys, there is an alternative and slightly better protected first pitch and the second pitch now has some bolt protection. The rest of the climb, however, remains in its original condition. Pitons are required and pitch 3 is very run-out.

Scramble up a broken rib to the right of the Overnight Sensation area and continue up and right to a small ledge with a bush at the highest, easily reached point.

- 1) 30 m, 5.10a Climb easily up and left to a small ledge below overlapping slabs. Move up and left to gain the upper slab (piton) and climb up diagonally left to the bolted station of Broken Boys. Step down and move delicately left around a corner. Go up and continue left to a good stance and bolt belay.
- 2) 35 m, 5.10b Step down and move right under a bulge and then up a shallow crack to beneath a roof (bolt). Step left (ignore a piton out left) and climb a steep layback crack to a horizontal break. Move right past a bolt and then up to easier ground (piton). Above is a

shallow, shattered pillar. The original line of Great White Hope went up a crack on the right side of this and then traversed straight back left for about 10 m past a piton to a poor stance and bolt belay. With the addition of Broken Boys, it is now possible to climb the clean face left of the pillar (bolts) to arrive at the piton and then make the traverse left.

- 3) 45 m, 5.10a Climb up and left to an overhang. Make a tricky move around the left side of this and continue over slightly easier ground to a second overhang (poor protection). Step left and go up a groove to a bolt. Climb right and up until a crack line leads rightward to an overlap. Climb onto the slab above, move left, and continue up a corner to a belay at its top.
- 4) 50 m, 5.10a Climb up to the next ledge and follow a rising ramp line rightward to a break. Go straight up on small holds to an overhang (piton) and gain the continuation of the ramp. Follow this until it is possible to climb straight up to a groove leading slightly leftward to a bolt belay.
- 5) 25 m, 5.9 Traverse left and down to gain a groove capped by an overhang. Climb the groove escaping left to a recess. Climb up and make an interesting move over an overhang. Continue directly to the top.

### One Night Stand 170 m, 5.10b

C. Perry & M. Sawyer, 1980

F.F.A.: B. Gross & S. Dougherty, July 1985

One Night Stand climbs the face to the right of the water streak and crosses a prominent band of overhangs in its lower third. The rock is good and the climbing is steep and technical. Presently, pitches 1 and 3 are difficult to protect and the addition of a few bolts, at the locations noted below, would make the climb more enjoyable. Pitons are definitely required.

Start as for Great White Hope by scrambling up the rib to the highest ledge on the right.

- 1) 35 m, 5.8 Climb up a short distance and traverse easily right to a corner on the right side of the slabs. Move right again and up into a shallow groove in the rib. Follow this to a bulge, move up and then step right to a ledge (piton). Follow slabs up and left to a bolt belay below and left of a prominent triangular roof. The addition of a protection bolt at the bulge is recommended.
- 2) 25 m, 5.10b Move out left across the bulge past a piton and up to a bolt. Make a hard move left to holds, and continue up and back right on good rock to a ledge below a groove on the right side of an overhang.
- 3) 35 m, 5.8 Climb the groove to an easier-angled section. Continue to a shallow bay, move right, and climb a steep wall (bolt required) to a bolt belay in an alcove below the upper overhangs.
- 4) 35 m, 5.9 Make a hard move up left to a bolt and then follow an obvious rising traverse line left across the steep face, staying low near the end to a suspect piton (bolt required). Make difficult and committing moves up and left over a bulge and continue up to where the angle eases. The bolted belay on Broken Boys is just above.
- 5) 20 m, 5.6 Climb up left and follow easier slabs and walls to a belay below roofs.

- 6) 20 m, 5.7 Surmount the roofs on the left and move back right to finish.
- 5 & 6 alt.) 75 m, 5.8 Climb the last two pitches of Broken Boys, which are bolt protected and have fixed stations.

## Skywalk Buttress

### Deception 170 m, 5.7

T. Jones & C. Perry, 1975

Between the Great White Hope wall and the semicircular face is a shattered buttress with a slanting, left-facing corner on its left side. The corner begins at about one-third height and is capped by a large roof.

Start by walking left on ledges above easy slabs to a bay just right of a rib below the upper corner.

- 1) 30 m Climb up to a short corner and move out left to a ledge on the rib. Follow the rib to a belay by a block, about 20 m below and left of the upper corner.
- 1 alt.) The same point may be reached more easily by scrambling up a gully and ramp system that slants up from the left above the lower slabs.
- 2) 20 m Move left to a hidden corner and climb it to a large ledge just left of the main corner.
- 3) 45 m Move up right to the main corner and follow it until a steep, loose section is reached. Traverse out left on a ramp between overhangs to a groove. Belay a little higher on the right.
- 4) 30 m Climb the slabby left wall of the corner to a small belay about 8 m below the terminal roof. A large overhang is located on the rib to the right, at approximately the same level.
- 5) 45 m Move up left to a short wall at the side of the roof. Climb this and the easier ground above to large ledges.

### Hesitation 205 m, 5.7

J. Martin, C. Perry & M. Sawyer, 1975

Hesitation climbs the shattered buttress between Deception and the corner on the left side of the semicircular face. The latter is the line of Skywalk. Hesitation follows the first two pitches of that route before moving left onto the buttress. The rock is mediocre and the climbing lacks interest.

- 1-2) Climb the first two pitches of Skywalk.
- 3) 10 m, 5.7 Traverse left on sloping ledges (difficult to start) to a good belay below another corner.
- 4) 15 m, 5.6 Climb the corner/crack above for a few metres and then angle up left on easier rock.
- 5) 35 m, 5.6 Move slightly right, climb a corner, then continue up slabs to a big ledge.
- 6) 25 m, 5.6 Climb a short slabby wall to a ledge and follow it right to a break in the wall above. Climb this to a major ledge system.
- 7) 30 m Walk left and scramble up to a tree ledge.
- 8) 30 m, 5.7 Climb a short corner to a ledge below a slabby wall. Move left to start up the wall, then after about 5 m traverse right to a rib. Move up, then right into a groove and climb this to the top.

**Skywalk\*** 250 m, 5.10a

T. Jones & C. Perry, April 1976

This excellent route climbs the corner on the left side of the semicircular face and traverses right below the roofs, finally breaking through them at their highest point. The situations are superb and the overhang move on pitch 4 is sensational. There is some fixed gear on the climb but pitons are useful and the addition of a few bolts is recommended (for example, at the steep wall on pitch 4 and below the crux overhang). With double ropes, it is possible to descend the route in two rappels from the top of pitch 4.

Start on slabs below the semicircular face.

- 1) 20 m, 5.3 Move left and climb a slabby wall to a narrow ledge.
- 2) 40 m, 5.7 Traverse left along the ledge and make an awkward move up left into a shallow groove. Continue up slabs and corners, trending slightly left, to a large ledge on the left, below a short wall.
- 3) 40 m, 5.8 Climb the wall to a ramp that leads up right below roofs. Move right onto a small rib and climb the slabby wall just right of the main corner to a horizontal band of overhangs (20 m). Make a long, rising traverse rightward below the overhangs until a steep slab leads up to a bolt belay in a scoop below a second band of overhangs. A 55 m rappel from this anchor will reach scrambling terrain below.
- 4) 35 m, 5.10a Move up right onto the slab and traverse right below the overhangs, descending

slightly near the end, to small ledges below a steep wall. Difficult moves up the right side of the wall (bolt required) lead to a bay below the upper roofs. Climb up right to a second bay, with a slab at the base, and from its lower left side (bolt required) make a hard move left over the roof (crux). Continue left just above the lip of the roof to a bolt and piton belay in a shallow corner. Until a bolt is in place at the roof, a small angle piton is required to protect the crux move.

- 5-6) 50 m Climb past a large block immediately above (5.7), and continue up and right over easy ground to large, vegetated ledges on the north side of the buttress.
- 7-8) 55 m, 5.6 Follow slabby rock up and left to an obvious shallow corner that leads to the top.

### Third Degree 215 m, 5.9

T. Jones & J. McIsaac, October 1979

Instead of making the long traverse right on pitch 3 of Skywalk, this route climbs up to the upper roofs, moves out left onto the buttress and finishes as for Hesitation.

- 1-2) As for Skywalk.
- 3) 35 m, 5.9 Climb the third pitch of Skywalk to the traverse right below the overhangs. Climb the groove that cuts the overhang at the start of the traverse and continue up a crack. Traverse right following an overlap to a belay at a large block with a solid horizontal crack in the wall above.
- 4) 35 m, 5.8 Go up and left following a line of small holds around a corner (no protection), then follow easy ground to a good ledge with small trees.
- 5-7) 85 m Follow the easiest line from the left end of the ledge, finishing as for Hesitation.

### Wages of Thin 35 m, 5.10b

J. Lauchlan, A. McKeith & M. Sawyer, 1977

This is a variation to the fourth pitch of Skywalk. Climb as far as the first bay, but instead of moving up right to the second bay, traverse left on a slab between two lines of roofs to an edge. Climb over the roofs (difficult to protect) and continue directly to the fourth belay of Skywalk.

### Chocolate Frog 170 m, 5.7

A. McKeith & J. Sterner, July 1971

This route climbs the rounded buttress to the right of the semicircular face. The first ascent party continued up the low-angled buttress above the cliff to the south ridge of Goat Mountain (Loder Peak). This provides an enjoyable finish for those of mountaineering bent.

Scramble up to a ledge below an open, slanting corner just right of the semicircular face.

- 1) 40 m, 5.6 Climb up a short distance and then move left over a small bulge into the corner. Continue up the slabby right wall trending right to a belay at the start of a narrow ramp below a yellow, overhanging wall.
- 2) 15 m, 5.7 Move left up the ramp to a sloping ledge, climb the overhanging wall and then go right to a ledge.
- 3-4) 45 m Climb easily to a broad alcove with trees.
- 5) 25 m, 5.3 Climb straight up from the right side of the alcove to the base of a right-facing corner.
- 6-7) 45 m Two more pitches, first up the corner (5.6), then more easily up slabs, lead to the top.

### Blue Threads 255 m, 5.7

J. Martin & B. Stark, 1979

The route starts below and immediately right of a square grey rock "window" toward the right side of the cliff. The easiest descent is to the south, as for the other Nanny Goat climbs.

- 1) 50 m, 5.4 Climb to an obvious tree belay below a steep wall.
- 2) 30 m, 5.7 Traverse right under the wall for about 8 m, then step up and continue to a large alder above a short crumbling bulge.
- 3) 50 m, 5.5 It is now possible to scramble up and left for several pitches to the exit of Chocolate Frog. Blue Threads continues straight up over walls, slabs and shallow corners toward blocky overhangs near the top of the cliff.
- 4) 45 m, 5.7 Continue easily to a large ledge and climb an obvious right-facing, steep corner to another large ledge with a small tree.
- 5) 30 m, 5.2 Make a gently-rising traverse left to a small tree and horn belay near a small broken pillar.
- 6) 50 m, 5.6 Climb the pillar, then continue up and slightly right over compact slabs to the top.

# GOAT SLABS

The large cliff that extends from Coire Dubh to Goat Buttress Gully is known as Goat Slabs. It is the largest cliff in the valley and is around 600 m high. The most prominent features are two roughly horizontal pale gray bands (one near the top of the cliff and one near the bottom) and two waterstreaks (one in left-centre and another farther left). The waterstreaks normally dry up by midsummer or earlier.

Generally, the cliff is relatively low angle and broken, lacking obvious natural lines, but the rock is of reasonably good quality. It is fairly compact, however, and pitons are recommended for all routes. Perhaps with modern attitudes toward protection and what constitutes a line, some interesting bolted routes could be developed on certain sections of the cliff. The rounded buttress immediately left of Dream of Electric Sheep is one possibility. Although the climbs are long, all of them can be easily completed in a day. They have been used as easy season training climbs and as practice for long alpine routes. The current speed record was set by Sean Dougherty and Mark DeLeeuw in 1988 when three routes were climbed in a day! These were Coup-Jack, Verflixt and Dream of Electric Sheep.

## Approach

Using the normal approach for the Goat Mountain climbing areas, follow the Nanny Goat trail though to the meadows between the line of cliffs and the long esker. From here, relatively open slopes lead up to the base of the climbs.

## Descent

To return to the base of the cliff, the most convenient descent route from many of the climbs is to the south via the large gully of Coire Dubh. This is not straightforward, however, as the bottom has some tricky down-climbing on waterworn slabs. It is also possible to descend to the north via Goat Buttress Gully. A third option is to climb up to the ridge and descend left over Loder Peak to Highway 1A.

### Coire Dubh 5.4

R. Allen & J. Martin, 1965

This climb begins in the gully at the left end of Goat Slabs and continues directly to the ridge top at a saddle above a wide, shallow bay. Coire Dubh is a good winter climb with ice pitches in the lower half.

At the base of the rock several possible lines can be followed into the gully, which soon narrow to a slabby, waterworn chute (5.4). The gully then widens out into a wide scree bowl with a steeper rock section above. The easiest line through the rock section follows a vague, left-facing corner toward the right (north) side of the bowl. An easy fifth class pitch is encountered near the bottom of this section, after that 4th class climbing leads to the top. A short distance to the south lies the bump of Loder Peak, from the top of which an easy walk down the ridge leads to Highway 1A.

Worst Route in the Rockies 350 m, 5.7

### Goat Slabs

- A Worst Route in the Rockies
- B Sou'wester
- C Coup-Jack
- D China Syndrome
- E Verflift
- F Grassman Route
- G Dream of Electric Sheep
- H Digital Sheep
- I Mountaineer's Route

K

L

K&L

J

North Gully

Brownian Motion

Twinkletoe

H

G

F

E

D

C

B

A

C. Perry & M. White, 1975

This aptly named route climbs an obvious slanting line near the south end of the cliff. Climb easy slabs up and right to gain a prominent, slanting crack system. Go up this on poor rock and continue above in the same general line. Higher up, a steep section allows access left to a prominent depression and hence to the top.

**Sou'wester** 400 m, 5.10a/b

T. Jones & P. Littlejohn, August 1976

Sou'wester climbs steep rock just left of the lower pitches of Coup-Jack and follows a line close to that route through the easier-angled upper section. Pitches 2, 3 and 4 use classic Rockies' sidesteps to avoid overhanging rock and so gain impressive positions.

- 1) 40 m, 5.7 From a high point in the scree slope, follow a blocky bedding plane up and right until it turns yellow.
- 2) 45 m, 5.7 Move up and right to gain another crack system that leads up through two overhangs. Move left to belay.
- 3) 30 m, 5.10a/b Climb the rib on the left with difficulty (the small wire and piton protection could be improved by the addition of a bolt).
- 4) 45 m, 5.10a Climb the left-facing groove ahead to easier-angled ground.
- 5-11) 5.8 Above and left is a discontinuous corner system on whitish, water-run rock that is followed to the top.

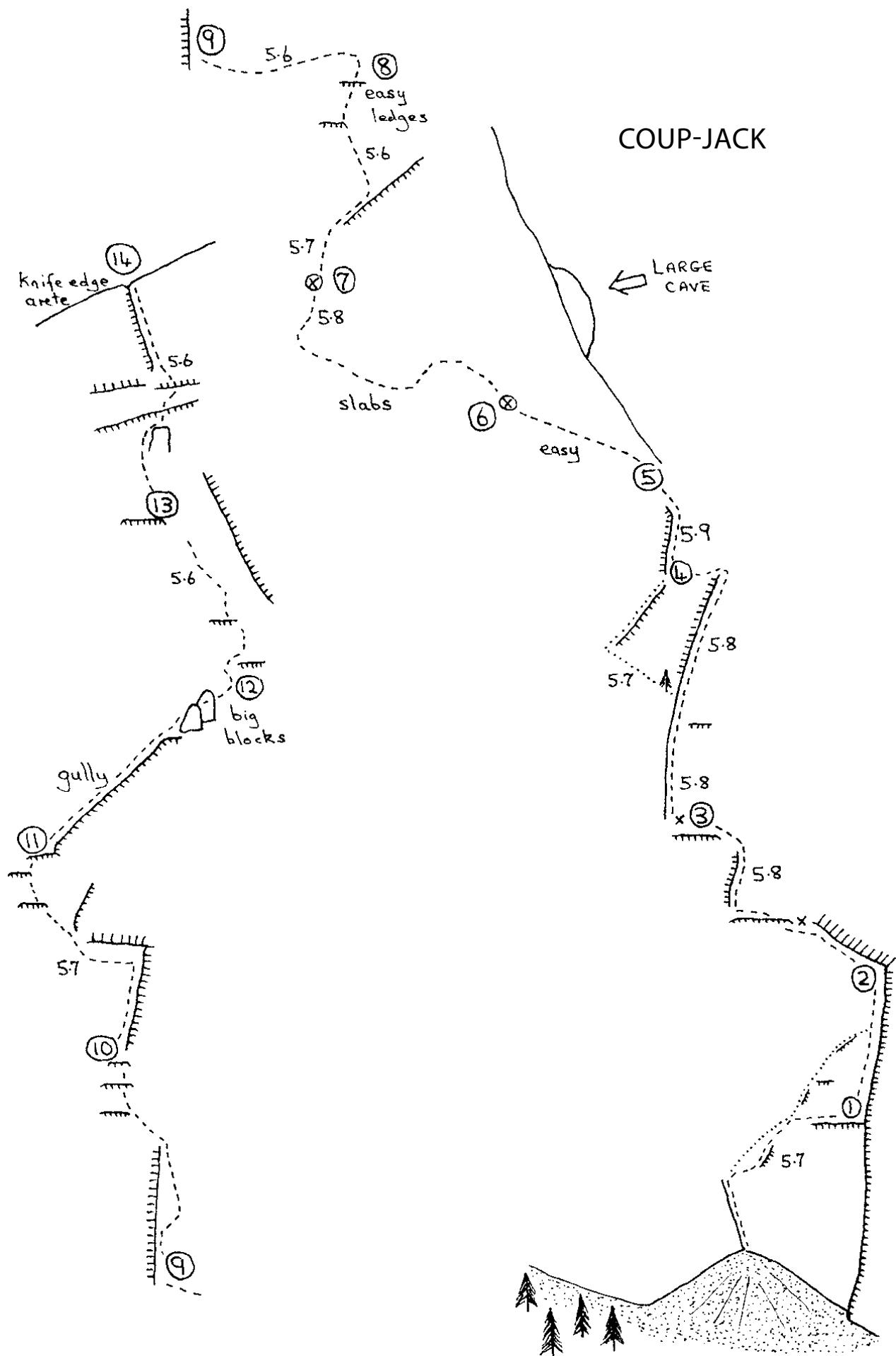
**Coup-Jack** 500 m, 5.9

R. Howe, A. McKeith & I. Rowe, July 1974

Midway between the two waterfalls on Goat Slabs is a prominent cave-like feature set in a system of left-facing corners. This fine route follows corners and cracks almost to the cave, then trends left and finishes up slabs and walls. Parts of the climb are quite run-out by modern standards and the single bolt belay at the top of pitch 7 needs backing up. The climb sees little traffic and a good selection of pitons is still required.

Start about 20 m left of a left-facing corner capped by a large roof.

- 1) 45 m, 5.7 Climb up and then right past a short wall (or corner to the right) to a ledge that leads into the left-facing corner.
- 2) 35 m, 5.7 Climb the corner to the roof.
- 3) 40 m, 5.8 Traverse left under the roof to ledges and then climb an overhanging crack in a short corner. Move up and left to a piton belay at the base of another corner.
- 4) 30 m, 5.8 Make a few awkward moves up the corner and continue up to a ledge. Move up and then out left past a small tree to a short corner that leads to an obvious overhanging crack in a right-facing corner. Alternatively, continue from the ledge directly up the corner (5.8) and then move across left to the overhanging crack.
- 5) 10 m, 5.9 Climb the crack, which is well protected.
- 6) 40 m Move up and left over easy slabs and ledges, trending away from the main corner



system, to a single bolt belay in a shallow corner.

- 7) 40 m, 5.8 Make a long, poorly protected traverse left on smooth slabs, then climb a short steep wall and continue to a bolt belay.
- 8) 45 m, 5.7 A few thin moves lead to a right-trending ramp. Follow this until it is possible to climb up and left to easier ground.
- 9) 40 m Traverse left on easy slabs and ledges below a huge overhanging yellow corner to the foot of a right-facing gray corner.
- 10) 35 m, 5.5 Climb the corner, step left and continue to a ledge below a V-chimney.
- 11) 40 m, 5.7 Move up into the chimney and then traverse across the steep left wall about 5 m below a large roof. Climb up and right and belay in the first short gully.
- 12) 30 m Follow the gully easily up and right.
- 13) 35 m, 5.6 Climb steep slabs on the wall of a left-facing corner to a ledge.
- 14) 35 m, 5.6 Continue above on steep slabs, then move left and up to finish.

**China Syndrome** 460 m, 5.10a

S. Dougherty & J. Sevigny, 1989

Start 30 m right of Coup-Jack below a very obvious deep chimney that forms the right side of a large pinnacle.

- 1) 65 m, 5.6/7 Climb a groove in an arete past some vegetation to a ledge. Traverse right across a corner and move up easily to another ledge. Climb a corner for 5 m and then descend to the left into the base of the chimney.
- 2) 55 m, 5.7 Climb the chimney (loose rock) to a ledge at the top of the pinnacle. Move right up an easy ramp to a belay below a clean-cut dihedral with shattered flakes guarding its base.
- 3) 45 m, 5.10a Traverse right past this corner system and step down into another corner. Climb up this via a crack/flake system to ledges.
- 4) 50 m, 5.6/7 Climb up and left to twin cracks running through a small roof. Above the cracks, move left for 8 m into a prominent corner system. Climb this for 10 m to a belay 10 m below an ugly looking bulge.
- 5) 45 m, 5.9 Continue up the corner for a few metres and then traverse left along a ledge. At its end, step up on nice rock to some ledges. Climb the corner above (chossy at first) to a belay in a niche.
- 6) 45 m, 5.8 Make tricky moves up the corner until it peters out. Embark on the slab to the left, aiming for the upper left corner. Excellent climbing leads to a large sloping ledge below a very prominent, overhanging corner.
- 7) 45 m, 5.9 Traverse 20 m left across another slab to a bolt. Continue traversing left (very exposed) until it is possible to make a tricky move up to an easy ramp that leads back right above the overhanging corner. Continue up the corner to a stance.
- 8) 60 m, 5.7 Climb easily up and left to the top of a ramp. Follow an obvious loose crack up

and right for 15 m. Step back left to a bolt belay immediately below a wide crack behind a massive block.

- 9) 50 m, 5.7 Traverse right along a break to a ledge. Climb the groove above past a small roof to easier ground and the top.

### Verflixt 685 m, 5.7, A1

W. Batzhuber and U. Kallen, 1974

The route starts slightly left of the lowest part of the face in a gully and crack system and curves up to the right, aiming for a waterfall high on the face. This is the right-hand of the two waterfalls on Goat Slabs. The Grassman Route is commonly used as the preferred start (see comments in that description).

- 1) 45 m, 5.4 Climb up the gully.
- 2) 45 m, 5.6 Head up toward a smooth waterworn gully. When this becomes difficult, climb up left in a corner system and belay at its top.
- 3) 35 m, 5.5 Go up and left over a faint ridge into some cracks (15 m), then left and down to an obvious corner.
- 4) 45 m, 5.6 Climb an easy jam-crack, then go up the corner until it becomes difficult. Go left to a diagonal crack, follow it to the top of a corner and continue up an obvious chimney.
- 5) 45 m, 5.6, A1 Climb overhangs blocking the chimney to reach the top of a pillar. Climb 10 m, angle up left to a short steep wall and climb the wall (1 point of aid) to a good ledge.
- 6) 35 m, 5.4 Climb straight up on slabs, then go left into a corner and chimney.
- 7) 45 m, 5.6 Go up the corner over a steep section with overhangs; at the top, go right up a ramp to a stance.
- 8) 45 m, 5.6 Ascend 10 m, then step around to the right and go up to an arch. Exit on the left, then climb back right to a good ledge.
- 9) 45 m, 5.5 Go straight up 20 m and then traverse easily to the right. Climb a short wall and go right again to a small stance. From here, an obvious rock "ear" can be seen up and to the left.
- 10) 45 m, 5.7 Climb 35 m to a roof, traverse left 6 m on a slab to a crack and follow this 3 m to a stance.
- 11) 35 m, 5.6 Go up a bit, then drop left into a gully to reach a big scree scoop.
- 12-14) Follow the gully easily up right for about 100 m. At its end traverse right onto low angle slabs near the waterfall.
- 15) 45 m, 5.7 Above is a steep wall, the crux of the climb. Head for a small pillar and from its top climb left on small holds to an easy crack. Climb the crack and traverse right to a belay.
- 16) 35 m Climb easily up toward a tree in the exit crack and belay in a niche.
- 17) 40 m, 5.6 Climb over the niche and up to a steep groove. Climb the groove, then go up and right over slabs to reach the top of the face.

### **Grassman Route\* 625 m, 5.7**

E. Grassman & M. Sawyer, 1976

This climb is named for Eckhard Grassman, who died on the north face of Mount Edith Cavell. It follows a line close to and left of the big waterfall, then moves left to intersect Verflixt at the base of that route's tenth pitch. The Grassman Route is now usually climbed as the preferred start to Verflixt as it avoids the short section of aid and gives good, consistent climbing on a more logical line.

**Start** After scrambling up to the highest scree ledges, begin in an obvious gully and groove system a short distance left of the waterfall.

- 1-2) 100 m, 5.4 Climb two long and mostly easy pitches up the gully.
- 3-4) 90 m, 5.6 Move left and follow a discontinuous series of short corners and cracks to a tree on a large ledge behind a big rectangular pinnacle.
- 5) 35 m, 5.7 Climb the steep wall above and then slant right up a ledge to a tree belay.
- 6) 40 m, 5.6 Walk to the right, then slant left and up to a belay in a wide, shallow gully.
- 7) 30 m, 5.4 Traverse left on a ledge into the pale gray band. Climb up a few feet and belay.
- 8) 30 m, 5.6 Climb straight up to the stance at the base of the 10th pitch of Verflixt.

### **Dream of Electric Sheep 5.8**

B. Greenwood & A. McKeith, 1971

This route has rarely been repeated and the line marked on the photo is approximate, except for the exit pitches. In general, it follows a shallow buttress in the central area of the cliff. The main feature of the route is a shallow, 90 m left-facing corner, with a dogleg to the right, in the centre of the buttress.

Start left of the dogleg corner where a gully can be seen leading up and right onto the buttress. An initial 12 m wall leads over a bulge (5.7) onto smooth slabs and then into the gully that is followed easily for three pitches to a ledge at the right end of a line of overhangs. The next four pitches, culminating in the crux, lead first up and right, then up and left to an area of ledges. An easy pitch and a loose wall on the left (5.3) lead to a crack about 30 m left of the corner. Above the crack (5.6) a ledge leads right to the corner, that is followed for about 60 m until it is possible to move out left into a smaller corner. Steep broken rock now leads to an obvious break in the upper light gray band that is climbed (5.5) to a broad scree ledge. Above the ledge a corner with a thin crack (5.6) is climbed to easier rock that leads up in two more pitches under an overhanging yellow arch to the finish.

### **Digital Sheep 5.9**

S. Dougherty & J. Martin, 1988

This route was intended to climb a separate line on a small buttress to the right of Dream of Electric Sheep, but was forced left onto that route higher up.

Start midway between Dream of Electric Sheep and Mountaineer's Route.

Climb a pitch up a slabby face and an easy corner to a major ledge. Traverse right to a right-facing corner at the left side of a huge, shallow depression. Follow the corner for two pitches. Traverse right and climb up toward a short bulging wall that blocks access to the central portion of the cliff. Work up and right along a diagonal break below the bulging wall. This break could be followed to Mountaineer's Route; instead, traverse left at the first opportunity (5.9, poor protection) and move up to a ledge that slants down to the left. Follow the ledge left to a break and belay. Climb a long pitch up the break to a clean ledge. Follow the ledge left for about a rope length until it becomes a scree ledge. Continue left along ledges to reach Dream of Electric Sheep a short pitch below the "dogleg corner."

### **Mountaineer's Route 5.6**

R. MacLachlan & J. Martin, 1981

To the right of the buttress followed by Dream of Electric Sheep is a shallow scoop. This rambling climb starts on a scree ramp that leads up right to a point below the shallow scoop. Climb one pitch up dark shattered rock (5.4) to a ledge, then move right and climb a slabby pitch (5.5) up the light gray band above to a major ledge system. The ledge is followed right for several pitches to prominent shattered pillars. Some short 5th class walls and traverses are encountered in this section. Climb moderate rock left of the pillars to a stand of conifers in a big scree bowl. Wander up and left to a large ledge below the upper light gray band, climbing this by an obvious left-slanting crack to another large ledge. Slightly farther left are the three exit pitches of Dream of Electric Sheep, which are followed to the top.

### **North Gully 5.8**

J. Jones & J. Robson, 1967

Details of this, the first route on Goat Slabs, are lost. The route begins at a fairly obvious break and after a difficult first pitch leads more or less straight up on easier ground to the left end of a huge gully. This gully is at the base of the lower pale gray band. It then follows the gully (that is easy at first) up right for several pitches to a steep, difficult section and after breaking out on the left wall continues up easy rock to trees.

### **Brownian Motion 5.4**

M. Bowen & J. Martin, 1969

This wandering climb has some enjoyable fourth class and easy fifth class pitches. Considerable variation is possible. Start at the only easy break near the right side of the cliff. After climbing up a few metres, make a long traverse left and then climb up to a large scree-filled gully below the lower pale gray band. This is the same gully used by the North Gully route. Follow the gully right to the first break in the pale gray band, then climb first up and right, then up and left for

several pitches in cracks and corners to a huge scree bowl with a few trees. From the top of the bowl, another corner system leads in two or three pitches to a scree ledge below the upper pale band. Walk right to a break in this band (it is possible to continue right and off the cliff from here), climb it, and then traverse back left to a shallow gully that is followed to the top of the cliff.

### Twinkletoe 5.6

B. Budd, J. Martin & S. Slymon, September 1968

Start as for Brownian Motion but instead of traversing left, scramble up to a bowl with a slanting slab on the left.

- 1) 20 m, 5.2 Climb up left on the slab and belay around a corner.
- 2) 30 m, 5.3 Climb an inside corner on the left, then continue to an obvious belay stance.
- 3) Climb up broken rock to a large ledge below a large slab.
- 4) 30 m, 5.6 Climb the slab, trending toward the right, to a small stance (poor protection).
- 5) 35 m, 5.4 Traverse left about 12 m to a slanting, blocky ledge. Climb this to a crack in the smooth wall on the left, continue up the crack, then traverse left to a tree belay.
- 6) 25 m Follow broken rock with a very smooth wall to the left to a small stance.
- 7) 30 m Traverse right and up into an obvious chimney.
- 8) 35 m, 5.5 From the chimney, traverse a few metres right, then climb up slabby rock past a crack to a steep wall. Traverse around a corner on the left to a tree belay.
- 9) 20 m, 5.6 Follow an obvious inside corner on the left to a ledge.
- 10) Climb diagonally right over broken rock to a large tree.
- 11) 35 m, 5.6 Make a descending traverse right, then climb up to an obvious overhanging wide crack that is followed to easier ground.
- 12) A short scramble leads to the trees.

# GOAT WALL

The southeast face of Goat Mountain is the huge wall that extends from the Yamnuska col southward to the prominent prow-like outline of Goat Buttress. Much of the face is extremely steep and continuous natural lines are few. The rock is comparable in quality to that on Yamnuska although it is less jointed and generally there is more face climbing and less natural protection.

Only eight climbs have been established to date and these are rarely repeated. There is very little fixed gear, except on Goat Buttress, and pitons are required for all climbs. The three routes on the slabby central portion of the cliff all have at least one bad belay that needs bolting. With modern ethics regarding bolt protection, the extensive areas of steep gray rock on this huge cliff offer interesting possibilities for new routes. Most notably these are the wall to the left of Goat Buttress, the right-hand side of the buttress itself (now climbed by Gotcha), and the big water-worn wall to the right of Wendigo (now climbed by Goatman). The approach to the cliff is not as bad as may be expected and is a welcome change from the hard grind up to Yamnuska.

## Approach

Most climbs are best reached from the south beginning with the same approach as the other Goat Mountain areas. From below Goat Slabs, continue in a northeasterly direction along the horse trail in the open valley between the cliffs and the esker. About half a kilometre after the trail swings to the east and roughly parallels Yamnuska, turn left at a clump of large poplar trees in a flat area on the left and head toward the Goat Mountain-Yamnuska col. Locate a small but definite trail that leads through trees to out-wash gravel from the creek that drains the gully left of Goat Buttress. Continue up the creekbed over several rock steps to the base of the cliffs. A few climbs, Wild Colonial Boys, The Ramp and possibly Wendigo, are best reached via the Yamnuska col.

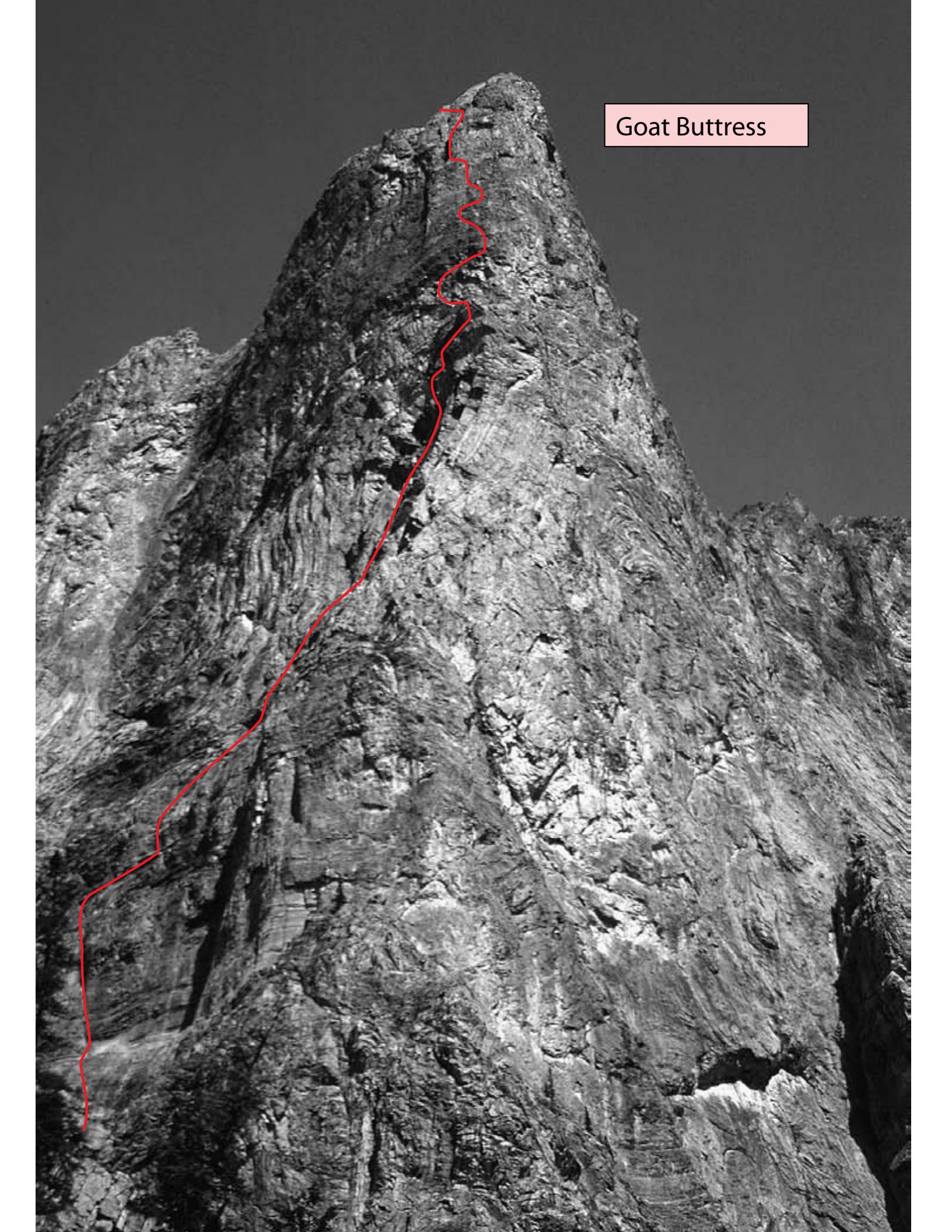
## Descent

The only feasible descent from most of the climbs is to continue up to the east ridge of Goat Mountain and follow it down to the Yamnuska col. It is necessary to traverse slabs on the north side of the ridge in places (exposed), and near the bottom, a broad easy gully is down-climbed back to the col. The gully is situated between the main ridge and a subsidiary ridge to the north. From the top of Goat Buttress, a convenient descent can be made to the base of the climb down Goat Buttress Gully. This is fairly tricky, however, and at present the rappel stations need bolting. From the top of Goat Buttress, traverse across scree slopes and then descend steepening slabs. Caution is necessary as these end in a big drop-off. Make two full-length rappels (single pitons in place) to reach the lower part of Goat Buttress Gully, which is easily descended.

**Goat Buttress 375 m, 5.10d**

C. Perry & T. Jones, July 1977

F.F.A.: S. Dougherty & C. Yonge, June 1987



Goat Buttress

This classic route follows a superb natural line up the prominent prow-like buttress at the southern end of the face. As it follows the “line of least resistance,” some sections are relatively straightforward. The situation on the exposed, upper headwall is exceptional. Opinions differ widely as to the overall quality of the route, some people give it three stars, others have little good to say. Regardless, the line is undeniable and it remains one of the plums of the valley. The long approach and descent necessitate an early start.

**Start** The climb begins in the large gully on the west side of the buttress above a lower cliff band. Bypass the cliff band on the left via an open slope that leaves the streambed about 50 m below the cliffs. Traverse across the top of the cliff band, cross the gully, and scramble up easy slabs to a long ledge left of a bottomless chimney that leads up to an obvious break on the edge of the buttress.

The route described below varies slightly from that of the first ascent that involved short sections of aid. Consequently, fixed equipment can be seen right of pitch 8 and left of pitch 9.

- 1) 40 m, 5.7 Climb a shallow, right-facing groove about 40 m left of the chimney and continue up and left to a belay at a small tree below overlaps.
- 2) 40 m, 5.7 Move up and climb easily through an overlap onto a slab. Walk right on the slab and follow a groove up and then back left. Continue up to a short V-corner to a ledge system that angles down rightward across the face.
- 3) 15 m, 5.4 Climb easy rock up and right and then traverse back left to a belay below a long corner with a slabby right wall.
- 4) 45 m, 5.7 Follow the corner to a small belay about 5 m below a large roof that arches rightward above the slabby wall.
- 5) 40 m, 5.8 Move up and across the left wall of the corner to the arete. Climb this past the left end of the roof to gain a curving slab above. Follow the slab to a large sloping ledge below a formidable, overhanging crack, the “Fissure Firth.” Bolt belay.
- 6) 7 m, 5.10d Either climb the corner (large cams) or the overhanging right wall on widely spaced holds with no protection (the “Gross Wall”) to gain a good ledge above. Bolt belay.
- 7) 33 m, 5.6 Move right on to a higher ledge and continue right to a corner. Climb the corner, moving out onto the left wall, to reach a ledge on the prow of the buttress (used as a bivouac on the first ascent). Bolt belay.
- 8) 20 m, 5.10a From the left end of the ledge, climb a loose ramp up and left to a bolt. Continue up and left to larger holds and then traverse right to a sloping ledge and bolt belay.
- 9) 40 m, 5.10b From the belay, make some tricky moves up and right (the “Cheesmond Step”) to easier ground. Continue right to the top of a crack and then move back left to an obvious ramp. Climb this (5.8) past a piton to a crack that leads to a bolt belay in a small alcove.
- 10) 45 m, 5.10a Move up and go across right on good holds to a crack on the left side of a small pillar. Climb this, then angle up and left (5.7) to a bolt below a steep, shallow groove. Climb

the groove and move left past a bolt into the base of the exit gully.

- 11) 50 m, 5.5 Climb the gully and exit left just below the top of the buttress.

**Gotcha** 515 m, 5.10a/b

P. Gatzsch & B. Tezcan, June 1999

This is the first new route on Goat Wall in 20 years. It climbs an obvious shallow weakness on the right-hand side of the buttress and follows good, but compact gray rock. The climbing is run-out in places. Pitons are required and 55-60 m ropes are useful.

**Start** Take the same approach as Oreamnos to a small pinnacle and instead of going down, scramble up for a few metres to a short corner.

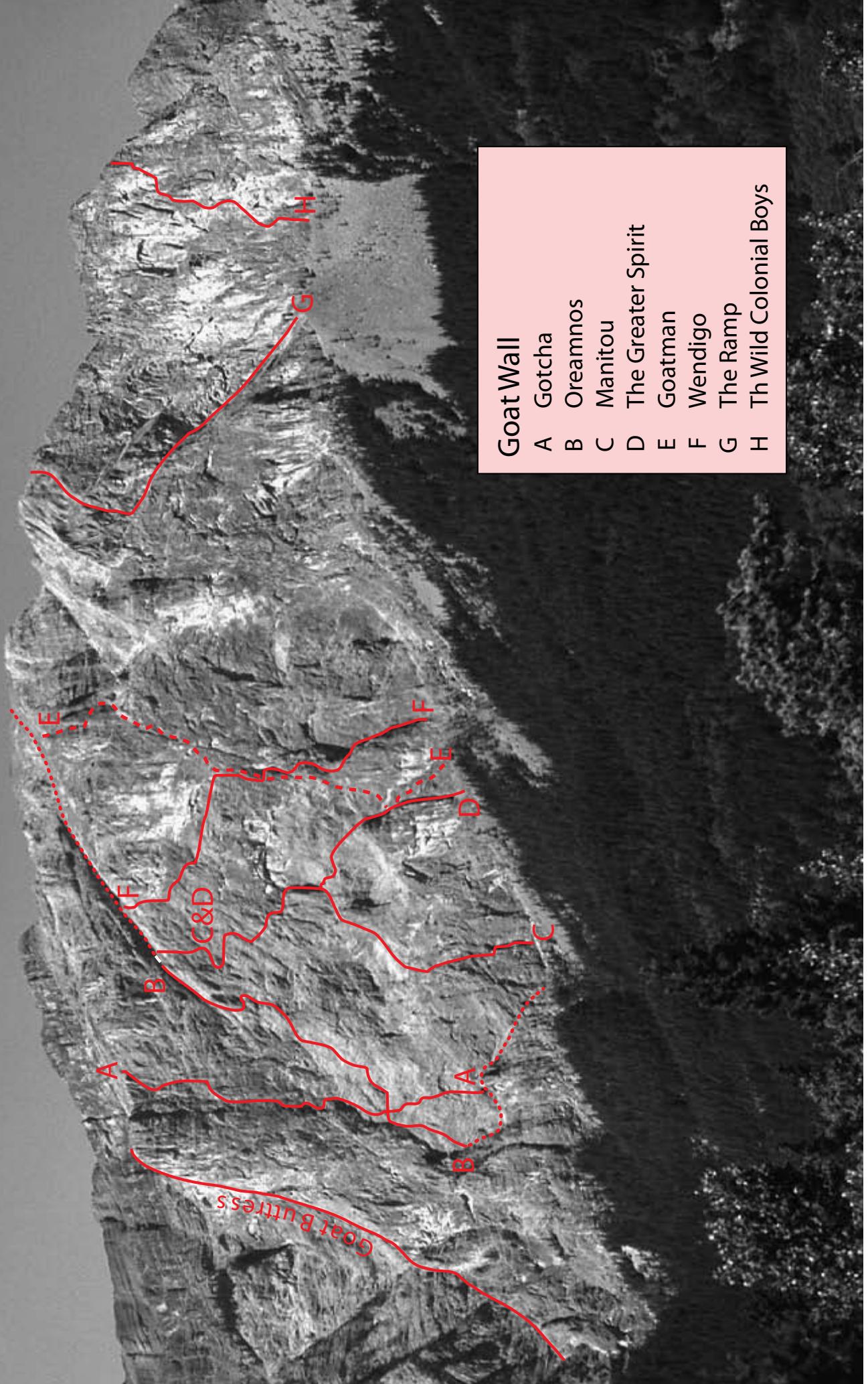
- 1) 50 m, 5.8 Climb the corner and move left and up under the left side of a half-moon overhang. Traverse left and step over the lip. Go straight up over slabs and then trend left on easier ground to belay.
- 2) 50 m, 5.6 Move right and then go left over slabs to a ledge. Climb a crack on the left and belay close to the wide, main corner.
- 3) 50 m, 5.6 Climb straight up the slabs parallel to the main corner and belay.
- 4) 50 m, 5.7 Climb to the end of the corner and continue up for 5 m until a traverse left can be made. Climb up and over a short chimney to a ledge.
- 5) 50 m, 5.10a/b Climb a few metres to the right and then layback a crack on the left, directly above the belay. Move up and right across a steep wall to a small pillar (two pitons). Go left around the pillar and then traverse right to a poor bolt (needs replacing). Climb a steep wall and belay at the end of a slanting ledge.
- 6) 40 m, 5.10a/b Traverse up and right for 10 m to a piton and then climb straight up (run-out, needs a bolt). Trend left (piton) to a small pedestal and climb a short corner. Belay below a prominent, wide, yellow corner.
- 7) 50 m, 5.9 Climb the corner until it steepens and then move up left over a steep section (piton) to easier ground. Continue up and right in a groove and belay.
- 8) 50 m, 5.5 Continue moving right to an arete and then traverse 20 m right and belay.
- 9) 50 m, 5.6 Climb up to a wide crack. Move left over a pillar into a wide, right-leaning groove.
- 10) 50 m, 5.6 Trend left over slabs to the final wall. Climb close to the corner on the right-facing wall and belay.
- 11) 25 m, 5.5 Move up for 10 m, then traverse right around a pillar, and go up to the top.

### Variation

1 & 3 alt.) Above the half-moon overhang on the first pitch, go straight up to ledge (50 m, 5.8). Move right and then trend left over slabs to a wide ledge (50 m, 5.6). Climb up for 5 m, traverse left for 5 m, and move up over a lip to gain some grooves. Follow the grooves to the left to the top of a corner. Traverse left (2 pitons) across the left side of the corner and move up left to belay at an old, hangerless bolt (50 m, 5.8). The

Bruce Keller on pitch 4 of Goat Buttress during an early attempt.





normal belay at the top of pitch 3 is just above.

### Oreamnos\* 450 m, 5.8

J. Firth & J. Jones, June 1973

To the right of the buttress is a slanting system of corners and slabs that leads up right to a prominent ramp near the top of the cliff. This is the line of Oreamnos that is perhaps the best of the three major climbs on this section of the face.

Start Scramble up left following easy corners and ledges to a large pinnacle below the main corner. Start about 30 m right of the pinnacle, below a short right-facing corner.

- 1) 5.6 Climb a short wall and then move up and diagonally right to a corner. Follow this to ledges on the right.
- 2) 5.4 Angle back left and up on easy ground to a belay in the main corner.
- 3) 5.6 Continue up the corner and belay below a small roof level with a traverse line leading right.
- 4) 5.7 Traverse right to a belay ledge.
- 5-7) 5.7-5.8 The exact route taken on the next section is uncertain. The steep slabs above the belay are climbed for a short distance and then a long traverse is made to the right. Slabs and corners are then followed, trending slightly right toward a prominent exit chimney. Finally, a traverse right is made to a ledge beneath a steep section, below and left of the exit chimney.
- 8) 5.8 Climb steep loose rock following a thin crack diagonally up right. Continue on easier ground to good ledges at the foot of the chimney.
- 9) 5.8 Move up into the chimney and then make an awkward descending traverse left round the corner on a ledge.
- 10-12) Follow corners and chimneys to the foot of the ramp. Continue up the ramp to join the east ridge of Goat Mountain.

### Manitou 580 m, 5.8

J. Martin & C. Perry, 1980

Located about 100 m right of the easy beak where Oreamnos starts is an area of large blocks on the scree below the cliff. The climb begins in the first obvious right-facing corner near the middle of these blocks. There have been several repeat ascents and there is some uncertainty regarding the best line to take on pitches 6 and 7. The original description and an alternative are given below.

- 1) 50 m, 5.7/5.8 Climb the corner, which faces right, for about 40 m to a steep section. Hand traverse left using an obvious crack to gain a good ledge.
- 2) 40 m, 5.5 Climb up to a bulge, step right to a break and then climb the groove above. Belay near the top on a small ledge.
- 3) 40 m, 5.6 Finish the groove and then go easily up and right to an easy gully.

- 4) 60 m Follow the gully up and left, then cut up to the right to large ledges. Above are easy-angled gray slabs below a steep, dark, shattered wall. To the right of the wall is a pillar with slanting grooves on its left side.
- 5) 35 m Climb easily up slabs for about 15 m, then traverse right on ledges and belay a short distance above, near the rightmost slanting groove.
- 6) 40 m, 5.7 Climb the groove to its top. Step left (see pitch 7 alternative) and continue by short walls and corners to an alcove.
- 7) 40 m Moderate climbing leads to the top of the pillar. Alternatively, after stepping left on pitch 6, climb the left arete of a broken groove to below a shattered wall, traverse hard left (5.8) to a groove, and continue more easily up this to a good belay near the top of the pillar.
- 8) 45 m, 5.6 Continue above and slightly right by a thin slabby wall leading into an obvious gully that slants up left.
- 9) 40 m, 5.4 Climb the right-hand of the two grooves. Near its top traverse upward to the left along a ledge.
- 10) 40 m, 5.2 Climb left and up along a discontinuous but obvious break and belay at a ledge.
- 11) 40 m, 5.2 Continue left and up to a ledge at the end of the ascending traverse line.
- 12) 25 m, 5.6 Go straight up the slabby wall above and move diagonally left to a poor belay on a sloping slab below a steeper, broken wall.
- 13) 25 m, 5.6 Traverse left across the slab, step onto a second slab and traverse left across it, passing below the base of a slabby groove. Step left onto a wall and climb up into the base of a groove with a good crack in its lower section.
- 14) 35 m, 5.8 Climb the groove to a traverse line just below a prominent small roof that blocks the groove. Traverse upward on steep rock into a groove on the right. Climb this for a few metres, then traverse back left across a steep, improbable wall to a good belay in the original groove just above the overhang.
- 15) 40 m, 5.7 Move left, then back right and up the groove above on awkward, sloping rock (sustained). Belay where the groove becomes easy.
- 16) Easy rock now leads into the exit ramp of Oreamnos.

### The Greater Spirit 5.9

C. Quinn & T. Jones, 1991

This is a variation start to Manitou that begins in a prominent, right-facing corner system a short distance left of the start of Wendigo and then curves over leftward to join Manitou at about half-height. The corner/chimney system is steep but solid and is climbed in two pitches, the first

one being harder and more run-out. Above, a 5.6 pitch, followed by two fourth class pitches, lead over left to the top of pitch 8 of Manitou.

**Goatman** 480 m, 5.10, A0

P. Gatzsch & B. Tezcan, July 2000

This recently completed route starts just left of Wendigo, crosses it near the start of the traverse, and follows an obvious crack and corner system that leads up and slightly right toward the top. The climb starts in the same break as The Greater Spirit, but instead of climbing the corner it follows a series of large steps up and left to join the corner higher up. Scramble up from the right to where the easy climbing ends at the first, short (2 m high) step.

- 1) 40 m, 5.9 Climb the step and continue up over a second step to the third step. On the last slanting ledge go left to the end and climb up to the last step (piton). Move up to the left and then go right and up to a stance.
- 2) 50 m, 5.8 Climb up to a piton and continue up left and then back right to a big ledge. Go up the corner system and belay.
- 3) 55 m, 5.9 Climb a crack to a bolt, traverse right for 3 m on small holds, and then go straight up to a small scoop. Climb up and right slightly for 40 m to the top of a pillar.
- 4) 55 m, 5.5 Climb easy rock along a ridge into a gully and belay on its left side.
- 5) 20 m, 5.6 Climb the wall left of the belay to a big ledge and the bolt belay at the top of pitch 7 of Wendigo.
- 6) 50 m, 5.10 Climb the steep wall directly above past four bolts and two pitons to where the angle eases. Continue up and right and then move left to the right-hand end of the big ledge system close to the belay on Wendigo.
- 7) 35 m, 5.10 Climb an easy crack on the right to its end, traverse 5 m right to a piton, move up to another piton, and then go right to a bolt. Climb up for 4 m and move around the left side of a bulge. A few metres higher, traverse right and belay in a small corner level with a prominent roof.
- 8) 25 m, 5.10, A0 Climb to the end of the corner and then make an exposed traverse right. Go up a steep wall and belay in a big, yellow corner. (Five pitons, two of which were used for aid.)
- 9) 15 m, 5.10, A0 Climb the yellow corner past three bolts and continue up first on the left and then on the right to a big ledge. (Two points of aid were used on this pitch, which could be combined with pitch 8.)
- 10) 40 m, 5.7 Move right from the ledge and climb a diagonal crack until the wall steepens. Traverse back left past a piton into the corner and move up to a belay in a small cave.
- 11) 55 m, 5.8 Follow the crack above to where it ends at a small depression. Climb loose, easy

rock and then go up left past a small overhang.

- 12) 40 m, 5.7 Make a rising traverse left into a steep gully and go up this to the top (excellent rock but no protection). The gully could be reached more directly by following the crack on the previous pitch for only about 8 m and then climbing a bulging corner on the left.

### Wendigo 535 m, 5.8

J. Lauchlan & C. Perry, 1974

Wendigo follows a major right-facing corner system leading up to a huge ledge high on the face, traverses left across this ledge, and then climbs up to the prominent exit ramp of Oreamnos.

Start at the first right-facing corner left of a large black water streak.

- 1) 45 m Climb the corner to a ledge on the left.
- 2) 35 m Follow the right-hand crack for 15 m, then move left into a chimney. Belay at its top.
- 3) 30 m Scramble up and left along ledges to an arete.
- 4) 30 m Traverse left into a corner and climb this to a ledge.
- 5) 45 m Move diagonally up left to a piton and continue to a ledge.
- 6) 15 m Follow the ledge up right to the foot of a smooth corner.
- 7) 15 m, 5.6 Climb the corner a few metres, then diagonal leftward across a slab to a large ledge and bolt belay.
- 8) 20 m, 5.7 Traverse left for 10 m along the ledge until it peters out beyond a small rib. Climb steep rock up and then right to a ledge. Diagonal up left to a corner and follow this to a niche.
- 9) 40 m, 5.8 Follow a ramp right for 15 m to a small bay. Climb this on the left side, and then move right and make a difficult move onto the continuation ramp above.
- 10-12) 135 m Traverse left along the big ledge to a belay on the far side of a pinnacle.
- 13) 35 m Trend up and left toward an obvious exit groove, then step down to a poor belay on a sloping ledge.
- 14) 45 m, 5.7 Climb up and across to the exit groove. When the groove blanks out, traverse left around a corner and belay in a scoop.
- 15) 45 m Ascend a shallow scoop to gain the exit ramp of Oreamnos.

### The Ramp 5.6

B. Greenwood, R. Lofthouse & J. Steen, 1961

This is by far the easiest route on the face, but to the authors' knowledge it has yet to be repeated.

Follow the huge slabby ramp that slants across the face from lower right to upper left and belay at its very top. The climbing to this point is easy.

- 1) 30 m Climb an open chimney, then cross a slab on small holds in a rising traverse to the right to a good belay.

- 2) 45 m Climb straight up on poor rock to easier ground.

### The Wild Colonial Boys 295 m, 5.10c

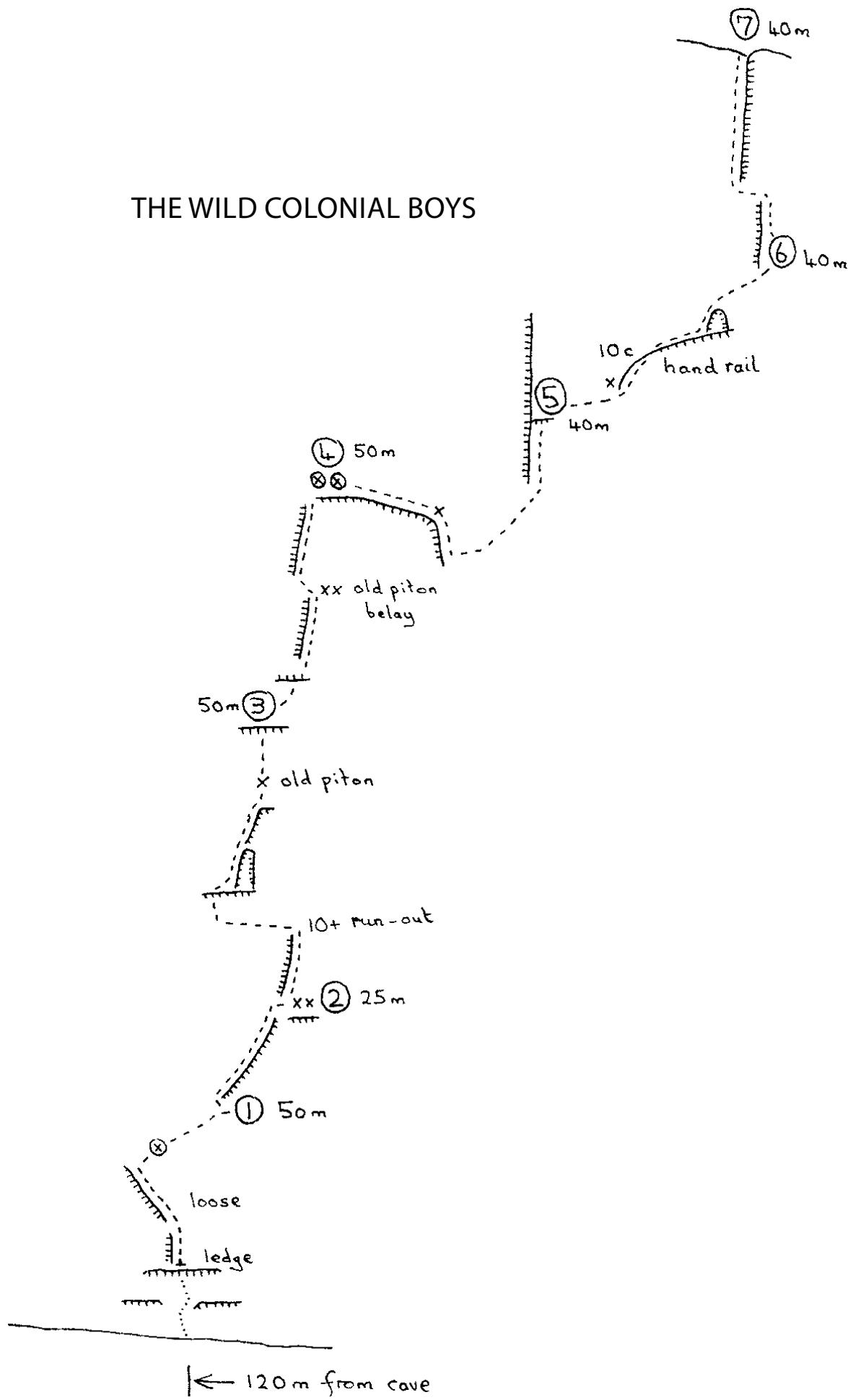
S. DeMaio & C. Quinn, July 1987

This route climbs the steep face set at an angle to the main cliff at the far right-hand end. It begins almost directly below the first subsidiary summit west of the Yamnuska col and about 120 m left of a prominent cave at the base of the cliff. The line had been attempted before and old pitons found near the top of pitch 4 indicate some of the first 5.10 climbing in the valley. The rock is bad on most pitches but improves higher up. Pitons are required and a good head for scary, run-out climbing is reportedly an asset. To the left of the route is an interesting line on more promising gray rock. This, and a direct finish to Wild Colonial Boys, are obvious possibilities although some bolt protection would probably be required.

Scramble up for 20 m to a large ledge with two small trees.

- 1) 50 m, 5.9 Climb the left-hand of two short corners to a ramp heading up and left. At the end of the ramp, climb up and right to a bolt. Continue up and right along a diagonal break and then go straight up to a belay below a corner.
- 2) 25 m, 5.8 Climb the corner until it is possible to step right onto a ledge (two pitons).
- 3) 50 m, 5.10 Move back left into the corner and follow it for about 5 m to its end. Traverse left with difficulty across the wall for about 5 m and then move up to a ledge. Go back right to a large corner and climb this and a crack system above past an old piton belay to a ledge.
- 4) 50 m, 5.10 Pull over a small overhang directly above the belay and climb a corner to an old piton belay. Step left and climb another corner to a large ledge (two bolt belay).
- 5) 40 m, 5.8 Move right across the ledge to a piton, down-climb a right-facing corner to its base, and then traverse right and up following the easiest line for 15 m to reach a corner. Climb the corner to a ledge.
- 6) 40 m, 5.10 Traverse right to below a right-trending seam. Follow the seam as it widens and eventually turns into a ledge system. Move up to belay in large cracks.
- 7) 40 m, 5.8 Climb up and then traverse left into a corner. Climb this past an overhang to the top.

## THE WILD COLONIAL BOYS



# CMC VALLEY

This quiet and secluded valley lies immediately north of Yamnuska and contains a number of south-facing cliffs smaller in height than Yamnuska and frequently more sheltered. Access up the valley from the east is blocked by Indian land and this, coupled with its remote location, gives the valley a quiet charm all of its own. It was popular as an early and late season climbing area in the '70s as it shared Yamnuska's favourable weather conditions and offered shorter, more sheltered climbing. The Simpson Hut, owned by the Calgary Mountain Club, played a large role in this early development. Weekend-long forays were common as CMCers explored the crags by day and socialized into the night. It was one of the more magical times for the CMC and for Bow Valley rock climbing. By the early '80s disuse, water-damage, out-of-control stove fires and vandalizing youth turned the Simpson Hut into a decrepit, trash-filled liability of squalor. In 1996 the CMC, under pressure from the Department of Lands and Forests, organized a weekend in which a dozen members volunteered their time to clean up the area. The hut was burned and dozens of bags of garbage were hauled out. Even today climbers and beer-laden youth are occasionally seen headed for the valley sans tents expecting to stay at the hut.

Today, the valley sees little climbing activity and most of this is centred around The Maker—one of the finest routes anywhere. There are a handful of other top-notch climbs including one multi-pitch bolted route. Considering the vast amount of rock and favourable weather conditions, CMC Valley is ready for a renaissance in new route activity, especially bolted routes and sport climbs. There are some obvious challenges left to those with an adventurous attitude and a willingness for hard work.

Pitons are required on many of the existing routes as the rock is often compact and difficult to protect with gear. Fixed pitons should be viewed with extreme caution—some have been in place for nearly 30 years! Also, the grades are definitely "old school" and were established when 5.6 was real climbing and 5.10 existed only in Yosemite Valley.

## Getting There

The best approach begins at the Yamnuska parking area and crosses the long ridge that extends eastward from the cliff. Follow the normal approach trail for the main cliff for 10-15 minutes until the top of a small escarpment is reached after a long rising traverse to the left. Cross a small trail that runs along the edge of the escarpment and continue straight ahead for about 100 m to intersect a major trail that heads eastward and rises slightly. The trail slowly narrows and after a dry streambed is crossed, it heads directly up the hillside following the east bank. About halfway to the ridge, the trail contours to the east along the top of a small sandstone edge and then ascends diagonally through a poplar forest. When an open slope is reached, follow the left fork that climbs steeply up to the ridge and then turns westward toward Yamnuska. Stay on the trail just south of the ridge and after a steep section to regain the crest, turn right from the main ridge trail and move across to the north side overlooking CMC Valley. Pick up a smaller trail heading northwest and follow this as it contours the hillside descending slightly and then goes down an open ridge to trees. The next section is overgrown but relatively easy to follow. The trail descends and then turns east and enters a stand of mature trees. After another overgrown section, the end of an old road coming in from the east is reached. Bear round to the left and follow a rocky track straight down to the valley floor where it ends at a marshy bench just above Old Fort Creek. This is the site of the old Simpson Hut and is reached in about an hour from the



CMC Valley from the ridge east of Yamnuska.

parking lot. A number of trails lead down to the creek.

A more direct way of getting to the Ripple Wall area is to follow the ridge trail up to the east end of Yamnuska and then follow an open slope down into CMC Valley heading directly toward the cliff. When the trees are reached, follow game trails to the creek reaching it near the small valley that leads up to Ripple Wall. This approach is more direct but involves more altitude gain.

### Camping

Numerous areas exist for camping in the trees on the bench around the old hut site and there are three or four good camp sites along the south side of the creek just upstream. To the authors' knowledge the creek water is still safe to drink but this could easily change if we aren't careful about where and how people defecate when in the area. If you are camping near the creek, please go up the hill and use areas in the trees above the creek. There is good soil here to bury your feces and it will go a long way toward preserving the quality of the water in Old Fort Creek.

### Reaching the crags

Gain an overgrown road on the north side of the creek and follow this west (upstream). After about a kilometre the road makes a slight turn to the right and the crags come into view up and to the right. Look for a small but good trail going up toward them. This leads to a broad, open slope directly below The Runes and is the best approach for the South Face of Frodo Buttress, The Runes, Runewall and Bilbo Buttress. From here it is also possible to follow the small trail

below Frodo Buttress to reach its west face, Ripple Wall and Wakonda Buttress. Early in the season when the creek is high and marshy, this may be the driest alternative. Later in the season you can continue up the overgrown road that turns into a smaller trail. Follow the trail to a relatively flat and open “valley” (look for a cairn) that gives easy walking directly to Ripple Wall.

### Descents

The cliffs extend almost without a break along the north side of the valley and there are only two major descent routes. These are Hidden Gully and the Main Descent Gully that are described separately in the Ripple Wall and Runewall sections respectively.



The West Wing of Wakonda Buttress.

# WAKONDA BUTTRESS

Wakonda Buttress is a large cliff of steep yellow rock at the west end of the long band of cliffs on the north side of the valley. It is bounded on the left by a small, east-facing cliff (The West Wing) and is the home of the mighty Iron Suspender. The name of the wall comes from when George Homer, who was from Liverpool, England, was watching "Bill the Drill" Davidson leading somewhere on the route and is reported to have said "There's wak on the wall." Wak is a Liverpudlian term for "my friend" and given George's thick accent, the Wak-on-da wall was born.

To the right of Wakonda Buttress is a long section of relatively featureless cliffs that extends eastward to Hidden Gully. On this section there are two prominent water streaks, a partially detached pinnacle called Isengard, and finally, Ripple Wall, a buttress of excellent gray rock just before Hidden Gully. Few climbs have been done on these cliffs, except for on Ripple Wall, and for now they are grouped together as The Ripple Wall Area.

## Approach

Hike up to Ripple Wall and about 100 m before reaching the cliff, follow a good trail in the scree left to a rocky area near some large pinnacles (good campsite, no water). To reach The West Wing and Wakonda Buttress continue left through boulders and up a short scree slope. Alternatively, hike up and left from Old Fort Creek when even with the Ripple Wall directly to the base of the buttress.

## Descent

To the west down easy slabs and scree.



J. Keunzel & party, 1971

This climbs the loose, obvious corner at the left end of the cliff.

**Creame of Afterbirth** 85 m, 5.7

J. Lauchlan & R. Amann, April 1973

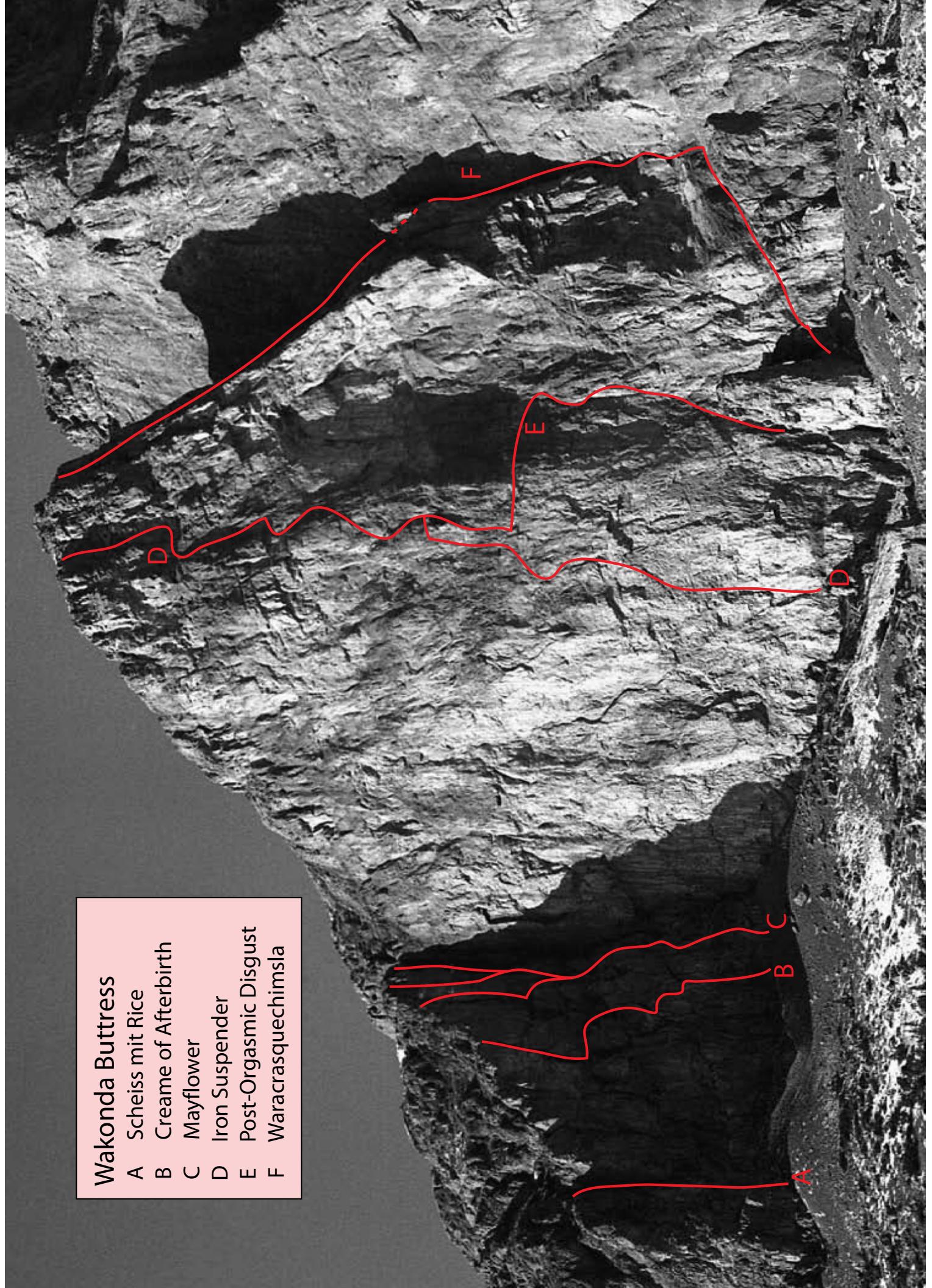
At the right end of The West Wing is the prominent corner of Mayflower, at the junction of the cliff and the main face. About 20 m left of the corner is a chimney system that is undercut by a large V-shaped roof and choked by blocks in its lower section.

Start to the right of this below a cracked yellow corner that begins about 10 m above the base of the cliff.

- 1) 40 m, 5.7 Climb up to the corner and pass the first roof on the left. Continue to a second roof that again is passed on the left, and then climb up to ledges.
- 2) 45 m Walk left to the base of the final chimney and climb this to the top.

**Mayflower\*** 100 m, 5.7

G. Homer, J. Jones & P. Morrow, April 1971



This pleasantly named climb goes up the obvious corner at the junction of The West Wing and the main face. At the top, one of three exits can be taken.

- 1) 40 m Climb easy rock left of the corner to a belay below a groove.
- 2) 30 m Continue up and right to the middle crack.
- 3) 30 m, 5.7 Climb the crack to the top.

3 alt.) 5.7 Exit up the wider, more difficult crack on the right.

2-3 alt.) From part way up pitch 2, move up and left to the left-hand crack and follow this (5.7) to the top.

## The Main Buttress

W. Davidson & G. Homer, 1971

This climbs directly up the steepest part of Wakonda Buttress and is typical of Billy Davidson's quest for big wall routes in the Canadian Rockies. Extensive amounts of aid are used but the route is reported to be a worthwhile outing. In the past the usual method has been to fix the first two pitches and then complete the route in a day. It is likely the route hasn't been climbed in some time and would probably go in a day for a competent party. Some of the bolts or rivets may be in poor condition and carrying a bolt kit is advisable. An extensive collection of pitons and hooks is also required.

Start "Where a drop of water falls from the summit" at a pile of big blocks below a shallow, overhanging groove. Old bolts and such are easily visible.

- 1) 35 m, A3 Climb the shallow groove and continue up the wall through a bulge mainly on bolts to a small ledge. (This pitch was originally graded A4 but has collected a fair amount of fixed gear over the years.)
- 2) 40 m, A2/A3 Follow the bolts up right until skyhook moves allow a small ramp to be reached. Continue up this (pitons) to a ledge.
- 3) 10 m, 5.7 Use rivets to gain a groove that leads to a ramp and bolt belay.
- 4) 35 m, 5.7 Free climb up right to a large detached flake, "The Lug," and continue up the right side of this to a belay on top (bivy site).
- 5) 40 m Climb up to a bolt ladder and follow this up and right across a steep wall. Continue up with the odd free move to a hanging belay below roofs.
- 6) 40 m Follow the corner on the right (piton) to more rivets. Make some delicate moves over a bulge (5.10b free, new bolt), and continue to a large ledge with a bolt belay.
- 7) 40 m, 5.8 Climb the corner directly above the belay to easier ground. Trend left into an easy right-facing dihedral leading to the top.

Post-Orgasmic Disgust\* 285 m, 5.11b/c

D. Cheesmond, S. Dougherty & B. Gross, July 1985  
F.F.A.: R. Slawinski & M. Norman, October 1998

This is a varied and sustained route on generally good rock, similar in both character and difficulty to Yellow Edge on Yamnuska. The first three pitches follow a prominent left-facing corner system. The route then traverses left for a rope length and finishes up Iron Suspender. The climbing is interesting and well-protected (a lot of fixed protection). Take a set of wires, cams from #1 TCU to #3 Camalot, and 3-4 pins (optional). Some new bolts were placed on the first free ascent to back up old belay and protection bolts.

Start Downhill and 30 m right of Iron Suspender is a large flake. Post-Orgasmic Disgust begins below the corner on the left side of the flake. Waracrasquechimsla begins near the right side of the flake.

- 1) 40 m, 5.10b Move up on good rock to a shattered band and climb over it to the foot of the corner. Climb the steep corner past two old bolts (5.10b) to a bolt belay on top of a pedestal on the right. The pitch is a bit scruffy but persevere, the rest of the route is much better!
- 2) 30 m, 5.10d Continue past one new and two old bolts to a short, overhanging crack (fixed wire). Pull through the bulge (5.10d) to gain a crack line trending up and right. From a fixed pin below a roof, step right (5.10a) and climb up to a ledge with a bolt belay.
- 3) 40 m, 5.10c Climb the corner above past three old bolts and a fixed pin. Stem over a bulge at the top of the corner (5.10c) to easier ground and a bolt belay.
- 4) 50 m, 5.9 To avoid the circuitous climbing of the original route, the first ascent followed a more direct line that is now the recommended route. Instead of lowering off a fixed piton on left down to a large ledge, follow the left-facing corner above for a few metres and then move up and left on clean slabs past two new bolts (5.9) to a ledge. Traverse left around a steep rib and climb the right side of The Lug pinnacle on Iron Suspender to the bolt belay on its top.
- 5) 45 m, 5.11b/c This pitch is all fixed. Step right and climb easily to the top of a pedestal at the base of a bolt/rivet ladder. Traverse up and right (5.11a) to reach better holds. Climb up and slightly left of the line of rivets (new bolt), then step back right under a small roof (5.11b/c). Follow the rivets to a hanging bolt belay below roofs.
- 6) 40 m, 5.10b Follow the corner on the right (piton) to more rivets. Make some delicate moves over a bulge (5.10b, new bolt), and continue to a large ledge with a bolt belay.
- 7) 40 m, 5.8 Climb the corner directly above the belay to easier ground. Trend left into an easy right-facing dihedral leading to the top.

Waracrasquechimsla 300 m, 5.8

B. McKeith & M. Galbraith, September 1971

The route follows the prominent ramp and chimney system on the right side of Wakonda Buttress and continues up the edge of the buttress to the top. The name is actually the route description, "wall-ramp-crack-squeeze-chimney-slab." Little is known about this obscure route.

Start downhill and 30 m right of Iron Suspender just above a lone tree. Begin at the lower, left end of a prominent ramp.

- 1) 5.6 Climb a short gray slab to a shattered wall to reach the start of the ramp.
- 2) Follow the ramp to a corner crack below the upper chimney.
- 3-6) 5.6-5.8 Climb the crack and chimney above to the base of the upper scree bowl.
- 7-11) Follow the crack on the edge of the buttress to the top (mainly easy fifth class).

### Robbie's Route

First ascent unknown

Fifty metres right of Waracrasquechimsla is a large square-cut boulder at the base of the cliff. A short, practice aid climb, consisting primarily of a bolt ladder, is located on its west side. With a little effort and a few newer bolts, the climb may well go free.

# RIPPLE WALL AREA

Between Wakonda Buttress and Hidden Gully the cliffs are steep and relatively featureless with two prominent water streaks and wide expenses of prickly gray rock. Ripple Wall is a flat wall of good gray rock immediately left of Hidden Gully and bounded on its left side by a prominent water chute. To date, there are two completed routes on Ripple Wall itself, Paraboosting and The Maker. Left again, and uphill from Ripple Wall on the front of a buttress is Isengard, a partially detached pinnacle that rises to about three-quarters height. To the right of Hidden Gully is a more broken wall that is the west face of a formation called Frodo Buttress. These spectacular walls form the head of a beautiful open valley that leads from the creek directly up to Ripple Wall.

## Approach

See "Reaching the Crags" in the introduction.

## Descent

From the top of Fourth of Firth or Ripple Wall, traverse across right and descend Hidden Gully (fourth class). One short rappel (bolts in place) is required at the bottom and various pitons and slings are in place higher in the gully.

Isengard 120 m, 5.10a



The section of cliffs from Wakonda Buttress east to Ripple Wall. The Fourth of Firth is the prominent dihedral almost at the extreme right end of the photograph and Isengard is the slender pillar immediately to its left.

J. Firth, C. Perry & T. Jones, 1975

Only the crack on the left side of the pinnacle has been climbed as the chimney on the right is choked by loose blocks.

Start at the top of a scree hill up and left from Ripple Wall. The route begins a few metres left of a subsidiary buttress below the left side of the pinnacle.

- 1) 35 m, 5.8 Climb the wall behind the right-hand tree for about 5 m and then traverse left at an obvious line to a ledge below a left-facing groove. Follow the groove and then move up right across a wall to a small bolt belay below a roof.
- 2) 25 m, 5.10a Climb the thin crack to the right of the roof (crux) and continue more easily to the base of the chimney.
- 3-4) 60 m Follow the chimney to the top of the pinnacle.

Descent Down-climb the short top pitch and then rappel the route.

Fourth of Firth 160 m, 5.10b

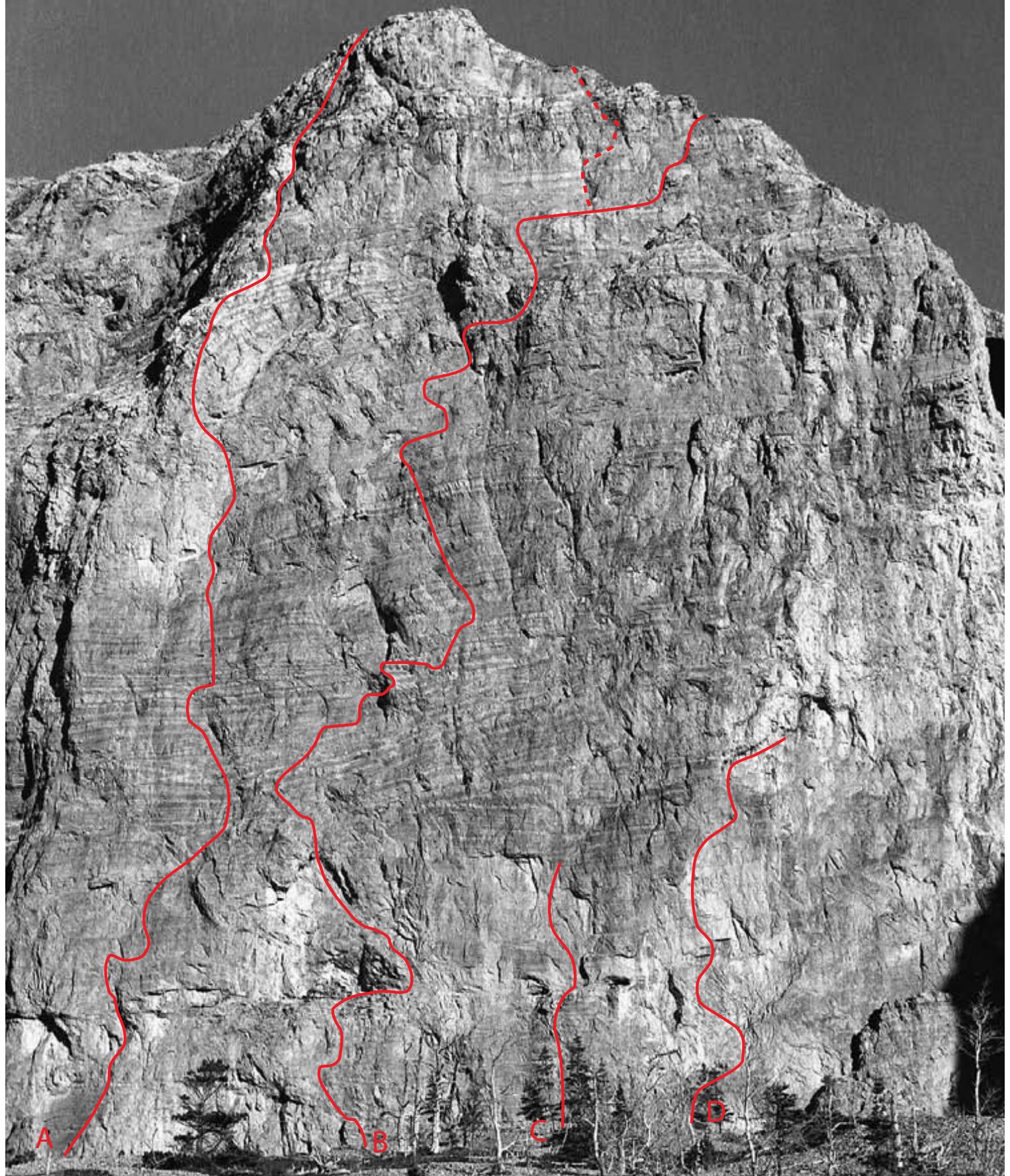
J. Firth & B. McKeith, May 1973

F.F.A.: B. Firth & C. Langford, April 1996

This route follows the prominent open-book corner between Isengard and the water chute on the left side of Ripple Wall. Aid climbing was originally required to reach the upper corner. Fittingly, the first free ascent was made a generation later by the son of one of the members of the first ascent party. The climbing is mainly good and the line is excellent. Pitons are not required although gear to at least three inches is recommended.

Start 5 m left of the first tree uphill from the water chute (about 25 m from the chute) below a broken groove of gray rock.

- 1) 45 m, 5.7 Climb into a wide, deep groove and continue trending right to a large ledge below the upper corner (piton belay).
- 1 alt.) 5.8 The ledge may be reached by climbing a shallow corner that slants up left from near the water chute.
- 2) 45 m, 5.7 Follow the wide crack to a bolt belay beneath the roof.
- 3) 20 m, 5.10b Climb the wide crack beneath the roof past a fixed wire and make a difficult and committing move up over the lip of the roof. Continue up to a bolt belay below the upper open-book corner.
- 4) 50 m, 5.9 Follow the corner with difficulty to a ledge. Continue up a wide crack and then move left on easier ground where the corner ends. Belay here or continue to the top.



Ripple Wall

A Parboosting  
B The Maker

C Project  
D Gangbang

## Ripple Wall

Parboosting\* 225 m, 5.11c/d

A. Genereux & J. Haigh, July 1995

This fine route is located on Ripple Wall about 30 m left of The Maker. Every pitch was established on lead by Genereux using a Hilti power drill. The first two-and-a-half pitches were climbed with J. Jones with the route pushed to the top on a second day. This effort included at least one spectacular leader fall with the drill and a full rack around Andy's neck! Despite the many bolts, TCUs and cams to 1.5 inches and wires to #7 are recommended. Double ropes are useful and allow a rappel descent.

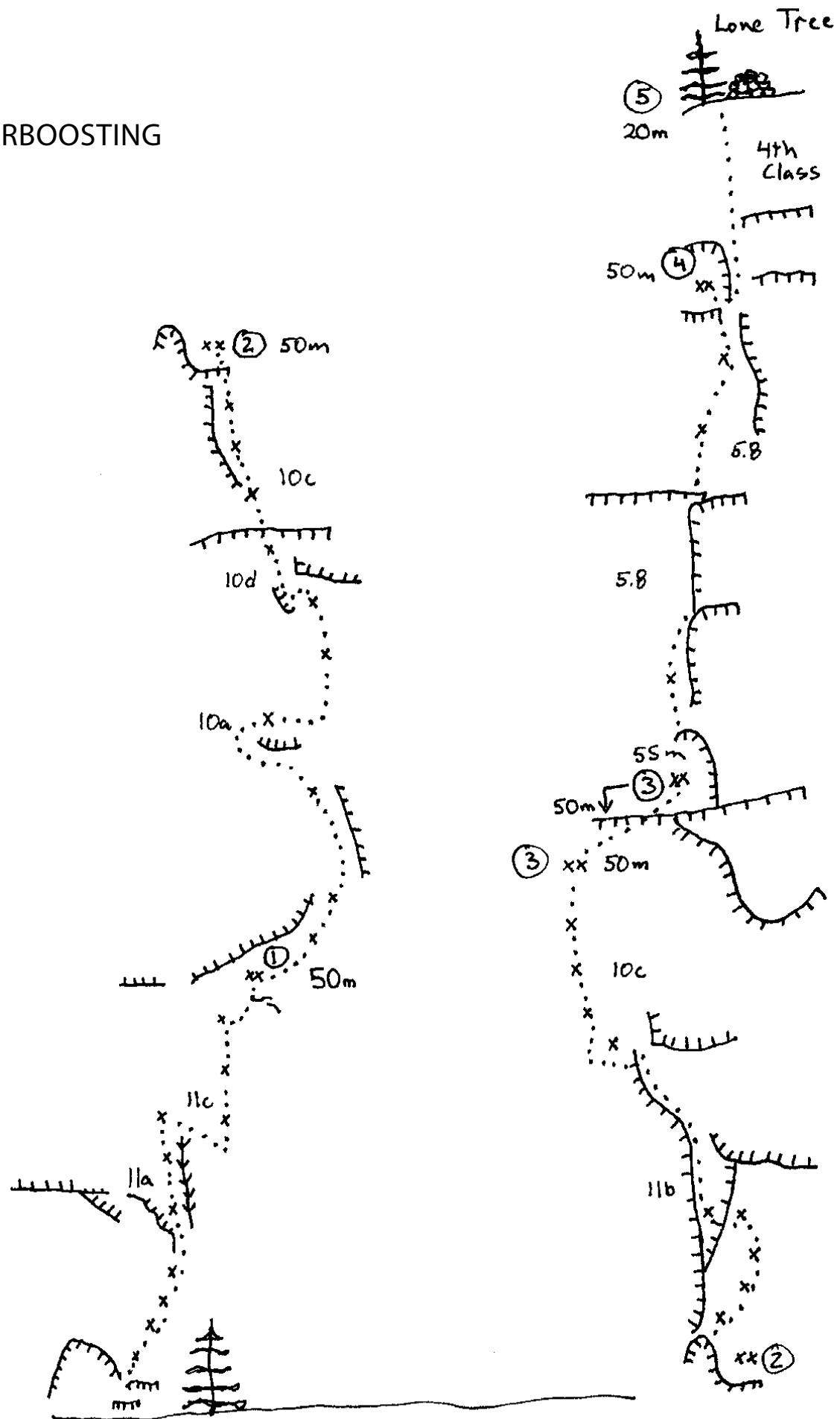
Start about 12 m right of the water chute just above a two-tree snag.

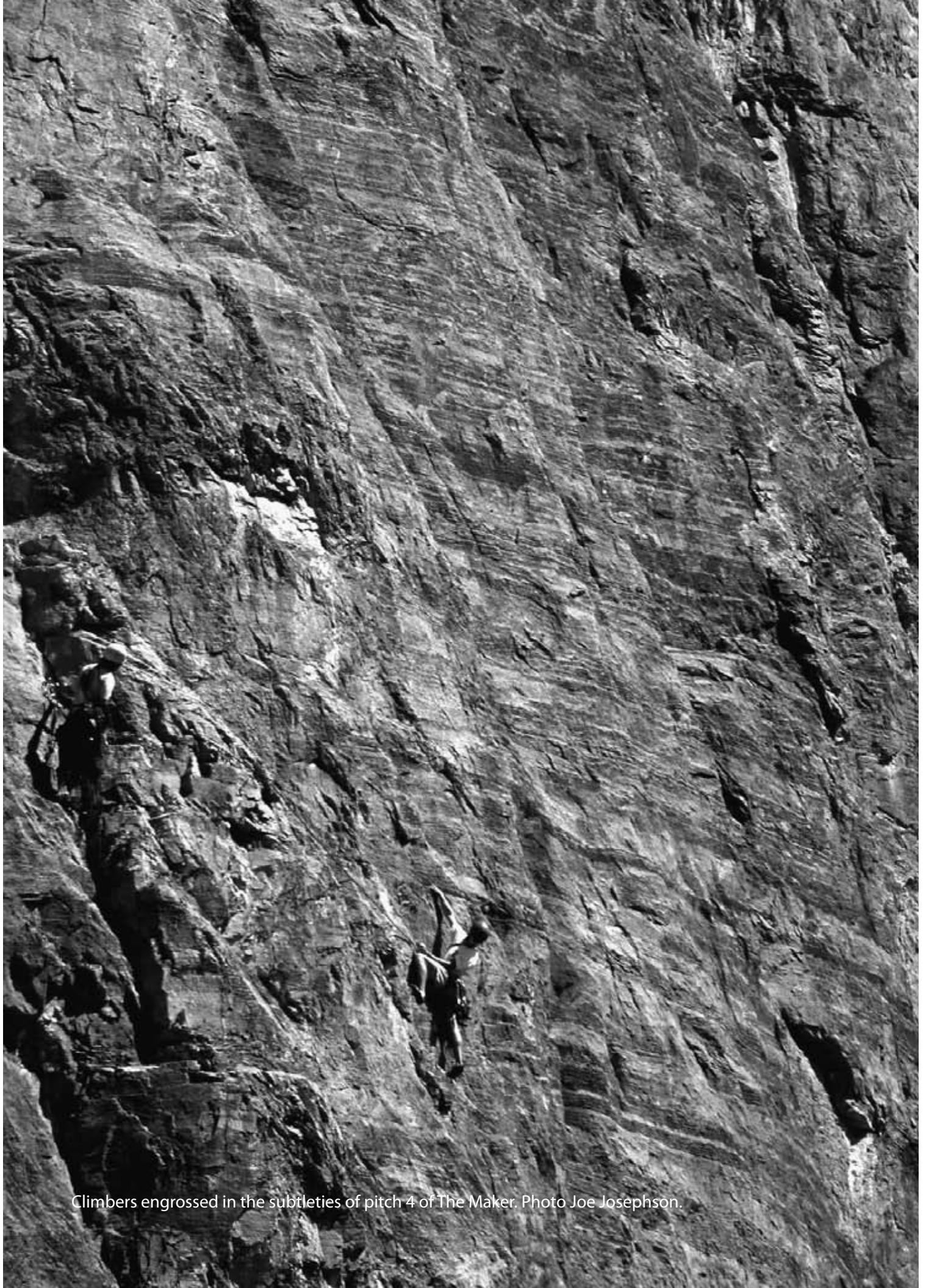
- 1) 50 m, 5.11c/d Climb up the face on blocky holds for 4 m to the first bolt. Continue up and right on sustained 5.10+ ground over some friable rock to the base of a short left-facing corner. Climb the corner and make awkward moves onto the face above. Climb the face and an incipient crack to the second of two bolts. From here make and an apparently bold traverse slightly down and right (crux) for 4 m to another bolt. Continue up on impeccable rock, then trend up and right to a small ledge.
- 2) 50 m, 5.10d Climb out right and then up the obvious weakness to a shallow left-facing corner. Climb the face left of the corner connecting gear placements to a bolt 10 m above. Follow the line of least resistance left and then up and back right to a bolt. Traverse right and then up past two bolts to an overlap. Hard moves lead left and then up to a bolt, above that the climbing eases to a good ledge. Make difficult moves up into a shallow right-facing corner and continue this (sustained) to the belay.
- 3) 55 m, 5.11b Climb the corner left of the belay for a short distance until it is possible to traverse right on the face above. Climb the blocky face to the fourth bolt and move left to gain a corner and a crack. Climb the crack (crux) for 5 m, then move left to a bolt. Traverse left and continue up a bulging face on mid 5.10 ground to a two-bolt belay (50 m). Move right and up to a spacious ledge and bolt belay (55 m).
- 4) 50 m, 5.8 Climb the corner above the belay passing a bolt at the start. Continuous 5.8 climbing up the corner leads to a ledge. Climb the broken face up and slightly right over some loose rock to a belay.
- 5) 20 m, 4th From the belay move right, then up to the top on 4th class ground to a small spruce tree and cairn.

Descent Either use the normal descent down Hidden Gully or rappel the route from the top of pitch 4 using two 50 m ropes.

The Maker\*\*\* 205 m, 5.10b

## PARBOOSTING





Climbers engrossed in the subtleties of pitch 4 of The Maker. Photo Joe Josephson.

B. Keller & J. Lauchlan, October 1977

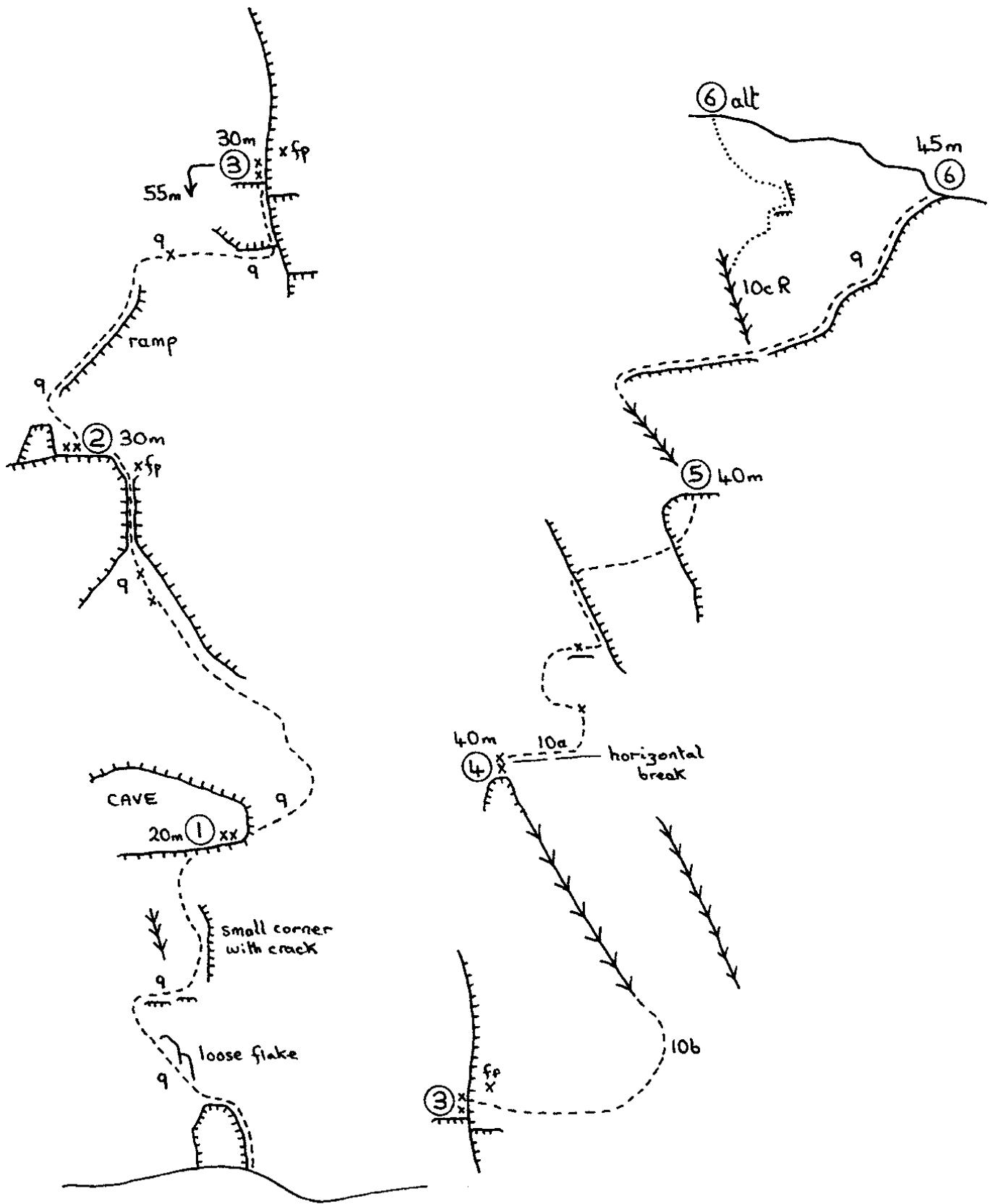
Excellent rock combined with sustained climbing make this an outstanding route. Technically, the climb is easy 5.10 but difficult route-finding and the run-out nature of some of the pitches require steady climbing at this level. This was the first route in the Bow Valley area to venture onto a steep, blank face where protection came mainly from bolts hand-drilled at natural stances. At the time, it was a landmark climb that remains a strong tribute to the vision and talent of both Keller and Lauchlan. Today, The Maker is one of the most sought-after routes in the Bow Valley.

Note: Considering the historic nature and quality of this route, the authors feel it necessary to address the issue of protection. Being what it is, many Bow Valley climbers have dreamt of climbing The Maker and it has been suggested more bolts be added to the route so that more people could enjoy it. If there is one route in the Bow Valley that should never see additional protection, this is the one. Adding The Maker to your list of climbs is a significant and memorable experience. Adding bolts to it so that it becomes more accessible negates all the reasons that it is such an impressive experience. It would become just another easy 5.10. If bolting and climbing a wall of clean, rippled limestone is your goal, there are plenty of other walls in the area that would make nice routes.

Start Located below Ripple Wall is a large scree cone that drops off toward Hidden Gully on the right and the prominent water chute on the left. The Maker starts near the top of the cone, just left of centre by a shattered block lying against the face.

- 1) 20 m, 5.9 The loose pitch. From the top of the block, make a hard move up left to easier ground. Move back right into a shallow corner and continue to a two-bolt belay in a small cave.
- 2) 30 m, 5.9 A taste of things to come. From the right end of the cave make steep moves up onto a slab. Traverse left along the lip of the cave until it is possible to step up into a slanting groove. Climb this, past two bolts, to an overhang. Belay on the ledge above (bolts).
- 3) 30 m, 5.9 From the left end of the ledge, climb up onto a ramp that is followed until it is possible to traverse rightward (bolt) into a short corner. Follow this to a two-bolt belay.
- 4) 40 m, 5.10b Step down slightly from the belay and make an unprotected, committing rightward traverse (about 7 m) until the base of a groove can be reached. Continue more easily up this with good protection to a two-bolt belay.
- 5) 40 m, 5.10a Traverse right along a shallow break and then step up to a small ledge (bolt). Continue up and left, and then move steeply back right, past a small flake, to a large ledge with a bolt. Having recovered, move right into a large, loose corner and climb it for 5 m. Traverse across the right wall of the corner onto the front face and continue up and right to a large ledge and belay.
- 6) 45 m, 5.9 The easy pitch! Climb the groove above to a higher ledge and traverse right for 10 m to below a prominent groove. Continue traversing the ledge system until it is possible to climb diagonally up and right to the top.

## THE MAKER



6 original finish) 45 m, 5.10c R Climb the prominent groove on pitch 6 moving right and then back left to reach the top. This finish has witnessed several spectacular falls and is rarely repeated owing to its deserved reputation for difficulty and seriousness.

Descent Traverse right into Hidden Gully and use that descent (see above). Parboosting is fixed for rappel (two 50 m ropes), but it is necessary to move up and left from the top of The Maker and locate a small tree and cairn (see Parboosting topo). From here fourth class down-climbing leads to the first fixed station.

## Projects

In the early '90s, the late Simon Paraboosinhg started a route some 15 m right of The Maker. It is has many bolts and is sometimes mistaken for Gangbang with starts farther right. Recently, some effort has been made to extend Simon's project. The bottom 15-20 m or so goes at mid 5.10 and is a good warm up for The Maker. There is no established anchor although there may be a quick-link on one or more bolts.

An incomplete aid route called Gangbang climbs part way up the steep yellow face on the right side of Ripple Wall. It begins about 35 m right of The Maker and climbs up to a band of overhangs that arches up and right to an undercut corner in the upper wall. The first pitch follows a line of small, right-facing overhangs and then moves right and up into a bay. A short, fixed rope marks the high point on the second pitch that begins the traverse across to the upper corner. (A3, small pitons and skyhooks required.)

Hidden Gully 200 m, 4th class

P. Davis, G. Homer, J. Jones & C. Smith, November 1970

Hidden Gully is a deep, narrow gully separating the Ripple Wall area from Frodo Buttress and is the normal descent for routes in the area. It is easily down-climbed except for the steeper wall at the bottom that has rappel bolts in place (one rope is adequate).

The short wall at the base is the most difficult section when climbing up the gully. From here, continue easily over a number of rock steps, bearing left at a steep 15 m wall.

# WEST FACE OF FRODO BUTTRESS

Frodo Buttress is a large, complex formation that is one of the dominant features of CMC Valley. The rock is more broken and not as attractive as the waterworn neighbours to the west, although it is home to a number of recommended natural lines. For the adventurous and hard-working, there is certainly potential for new routes.

## Approach

As for Ripple Wall. The easiest approach is to continue directly to the base of Hidden Gully and then walk right along a trail at the base of the cliff. Alternatively, several hundred metres out from Ripple Wall there is a trail (cairn) that heads up the scree to the right and arrives at the cliff at the corner of the West and South faces.

## Descent

If you leave a pack at the base of the route, descent from the West Face of Frodo Buttress is best made down Hidden Gully. An alternative is to traverse east across the hillside above the main cliff to the Main Descent Gully between The Runes and Runewall.

**Pulmonata** 100 m, 5.8

C. Perry & J. Jones, October 1977

To the right of Hidden Gully is a small buttress separated from the main face by the deep chimney of Inner Limits. The climb starts by a large block set in the scree about 5 m left of Inner Limits.

Note: It may be possible to fix a rappel route down the left side of the buttress into Hidden Gully. This would serve as a convenient descent route for Pulmonata and the lower section of Inner Limits.

- 1) 25 m, 5.7 Climb the wall to an ill-defined crack and go across to a small ledge. Traverse up left to a shallow groove and continue up this to a ledge below a V-corner.
- 2) 40 m, 5.8 Traverse left across the wall and climb a series of shallow corners that diagonal slightly left across the face to a more prominent groove above. Belay on a small ledge on the left, at the top of the groove (bolt).
- 3) 35 m, 5.6 Move left and climb a groove to easier ground and the top of the buttress.
- 4-5) Join Inner Limits and continue as for that route.

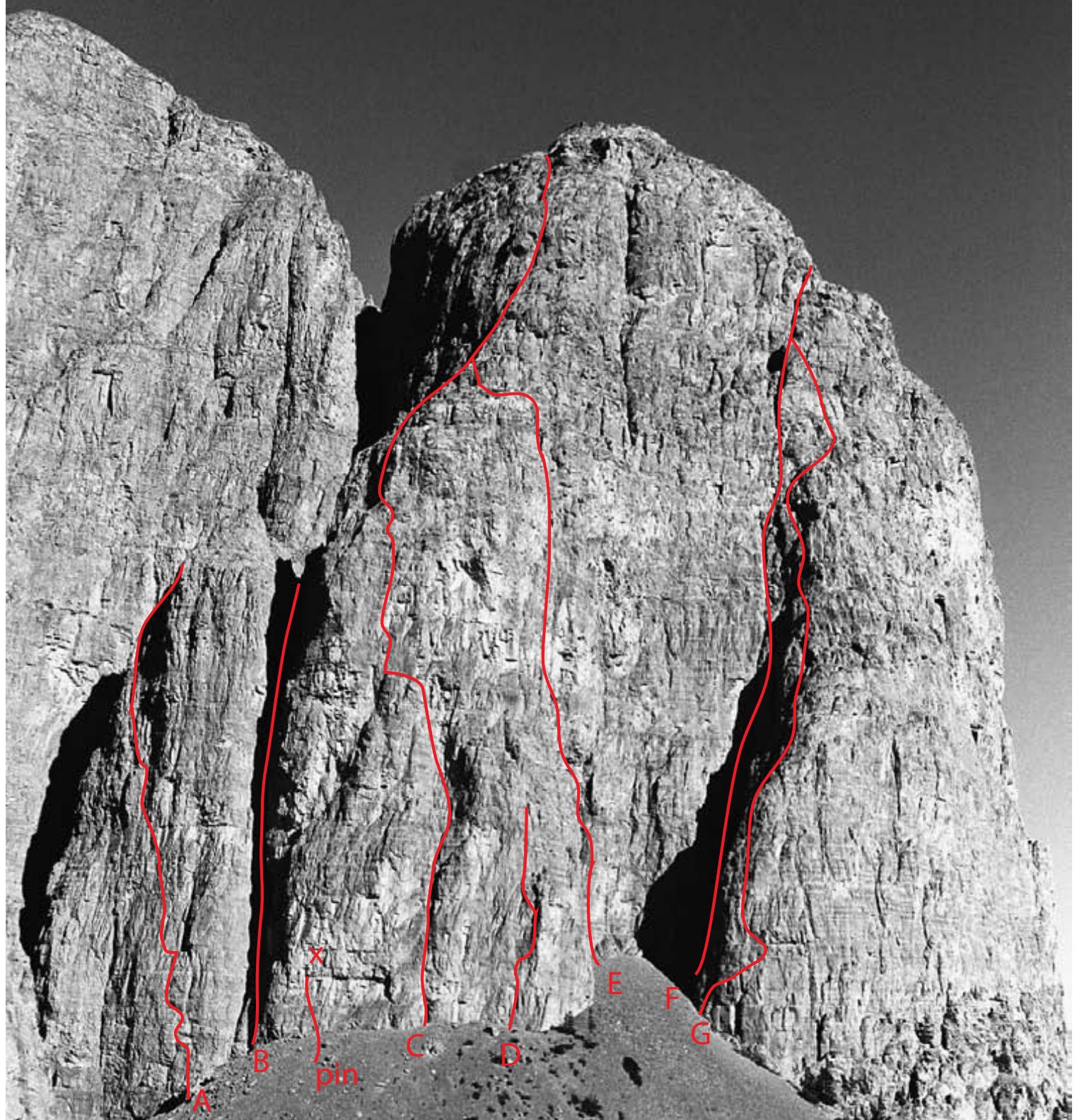
**Inner Limits** 200 m, 5.7

R. Amann & J. Frey, October 1973

The climbing in the lower chimney is quite interesting and leads to an easy-angled section at about half height. The continuation chimney is loose and fairly easy.

**False Modesty\*** 200 m, 5.10a

W. Davidson, G. Homer & J. Jones, June 1973



### West Face of Frodo Buttress

A	Pulmonata	E	Popular Misconception
B	Inner Limits	F	Parasite
C	False Modesty	G	Kiln Buttress
D	The Spike		

This highly recommended route offers good crack and face climbing and deserves to be climbed more often.

Start Continue up the scree past Inner Limits to where the trail flattens out. Look for a spectacular crack about three-quarters of the way from Inner Limits to a pair of trees. The crack starts in the front of the buttress and leads to a bowl. The climb starts here and angles up left to the ridge.

- 1) 40 m, 5.10a Climb the crack (piton) to a belay in the bowl.
- 2) 30 m, 5.8 Climb the wide crack on the left side of the bowl and continue to the top of a pinnacle.
- 3) 40 m, 5.9 Move left from the pinnacle and climb a steep slab (piton) past a shattered block on the left to a corner and a second piton runner. Move up and make a difficult traverse left to easier ground. Continue up a groove to the ridge.
- 4-6) Easy fifth-class climbing up the ridge leads to the top of the buttress.

**The Spike** 55 m, 5.10a

D. Guthrie & J. Buszowski, May 1985

Start This short route starts in a shallow corner just above a large block set in the scree about 10 m right of False Modesty. It climbs a crack that starts about 30 m up the cliff and ends at ledges.

- 1) 30 m, 5.10a Climb a shallow corner with a piton at the top, and then move right and climb a steep wall. Continue up and right to a chimney and follow this to a belay.
- 2) 25 m, 5.10a Traverse left and climb the crack. At the top, move up right to a bolt belay.

Descent One rappel reaches the ground.

**Popular Misconception** 180 m, 5.9

J. Lauchlan & S. Sutton, August 1973

Located on the left side of the bay of Parasite, just in from the edge of the buttress, is a wide crack/chimney that leads up to steep yellow rock. The line continues as a series of broken corners to the edge of the ridge. The climbing is difficult and the rock on pitch 2 is poor.

- 1) 30 m Climb the crack to a pedestal belay on the right.
- 2) 40 m Continue mainly to the left of the corner line to a belay at some large blocks.
- 3) 45 m Move right to the steep corner system and climb this (crux) to easier ground leading up to the ridge.
- 4-5) 75 m Continue up the ridge as for False Modesty.

**Parasite** 190 m, 5.8

D. Jones & B. Haggerstone, May 1972

This climb follows the crack system on the right at the back of the bay and is reported to be quite loose.

- 1) 15 m Scramble over broken rock and ledges to where the gully steepens. Belay below a

crack to the right of the main chimney.

- 2) 35 m, 5.6 Move left and climb the chimney. Continue up and right to a belay below a loose overhang.
- 3) 30 m, 5.7 Pass the overhang on the right and follow a groove to a second overhang. Step left and climb up to a large ledge.
- 4) 25 m, 5.6 Climb the left side of a double crack system to a ledge on the right.
- 5) 35 m, 5.8 Move up and diagonally right on loose blocks. Continue right round the corner and climb a steep crack.
- 6) 40 m Move up and left to an obvious crack. Climb this and continue up and right to a belay.
- 7) 10 m Easy climbing leads to the top.

### Kiln Buttress 200 m, 5.6

J. Jones, B. Greenwood & G. Homer, 1971

This is a long and fairly easy climb up the buttress to the right of Parasite. The first two pitches are the most difficult.

Start 10 m left and uphill of a steep yellow slot near the front of the buttress before the scree goes downhill.

- 1) 15 m, 5.6 Climb diagonally right across the wall to ledges above the slot. Continue right round the edge of the buttress and climb up to a belay ledge below a short corner.
- 2) 40 m, 5.6 Climb the steep wall left of the belay to an easy-angled section.

Continue more easily to the summit, staying near the edge of the buttress.

# SOUTH FACE OF FRODO BUTTRESS

This area extends east from Kiln Buttress to the gully at the right end of the crag that separates it from the first of the Rune buttresses. Existing routes are confined to the right side of the face and this section is shown in the photograph. The two most prominent features are the large, slanting corner systems of The Iliad and Luminous Pigeon.

## Approach

The best approach for the climbs done to date is to follow the open slopes up toward The Runes (see introduction) and then follow a good trail leading west near the base of the cliff. The west side of the wall can be reached using the Ripple Wall approach. Several hundred metres out from Ripple Wall there is a trail (cairn) heading up the scree to the right that arrives at Frodo Buttress near the corner of the West and South faces.

## Descent

Descent is normally made down the narrow gully at the right end of the cliff adjacent to the First Rune (two short rappels), but for climbs going to the top of the buttress the Main Descent Gully between the Runes and Runewall is easier.

### S-Crack 35 m, 5.8

B. Keller & C. Perry, April 1977

This short route climbs a shallow corner just left of The Iliad. It finishes at about one-quarter height although the route could be extended as a variation start to The Iliad.

Start below a shallow, curving crack just before the scree cone heads up hill and about 40 m left of The Iliad. Scramble up to a ledge with a small tree growing out of a crack about 10 m above the ground.

- 1) 35 m, 5.8 Follow the crack, moving left to a rib at a difficult section. Continue to a fixed belay in a groove.

Descent Rappel the route.

### The Iliad\* 170 m, 5.8

G. Homer & R. Wood, November 1970

In its lower section, the climb follows a prominent slanting chimney and then moves left to climb a corner and crack system in the upper wall.

Start at the base of the lower chimney.

- 1) 40 m Follow the chimney until it steepens.
- 2) 50 m Either climb the clean corner directly above the belay (5.9), or move left and climb up more easily. Continue via a steep crack to an overhang (possible belay) and then follow cracks up and left to a large ledge.
- 3) 40 m, 5.8 Walk left along the ledge and then move up and slightly left to a large right-facing corner. Climb the corner past a difficult wide section to a small ledge.
- 4) 40 m, 5.8 Follow layback flakes up to a good hand-crack and climb this directly to the top. Alternatively, climb part way up the crack and then move left to a sloping, exposed ledge. Traverse left for 5 m to a fixed piton and climb a short wall to the top.

### Luminous Pigeon\* 145 m, 5.7

J. Jones & R. Schneider, October 1970

This climbs the right of the two corner systems and stays left in the lower section to avoid a narrow, overhanging chimney.

Start slightly to the right at a corner below the overhanging chimney.

- 1) 30 m Climb the crack until it steepens and then move left and up to a ledge. From the left side of the ledge climb up a short distance to a belay in the corner.
- 2) 45 m Move left to a thin crack in the slabs and climb this to a corner. Continue up the corner (crux) and then move easily up right to the upper chimney.
- 2 alt.) 5.7 Move up right and climb the overhanging chimney. This involves a tight squeeze past a constriction followed by more pleasant climbing above on the outside of the chimney.
- 3-4) 70 m Follow the chimney to the top.

### Wormtongue 40 m, 5.8

C. Perry & P. Dickson, October 1977

This worthwhile, one-pitch climb goes up a corner about 30 m right of Luminous Pigeon and ends at large, sloping ledges. With bolt protection it may be possible to extend the climb up the impressive, solid-looking gray wall on the right to reach an obvious exit chimney.

Start at a short groove just left of the corner and about 30 m right of Luminous Pigeon.

- 1) 40 m, 5.8 Climb a short groove on the left and then traverse right into the corner. Follow this to a bolt belay at the ledges.

Descent Rappel the route.

### Kazak 130 m, 5.7

S. Jennings & C. Perry, February 1973

This wandering climb could also possibly benefit from a modern approach. An interesting sweep of rock to the right of the pinnacle at the base of the cliff leads directly to the upper chimney and could provide an alternative start.

Start about 45 m right of Luminous Pigeon behind a small pinnacle.

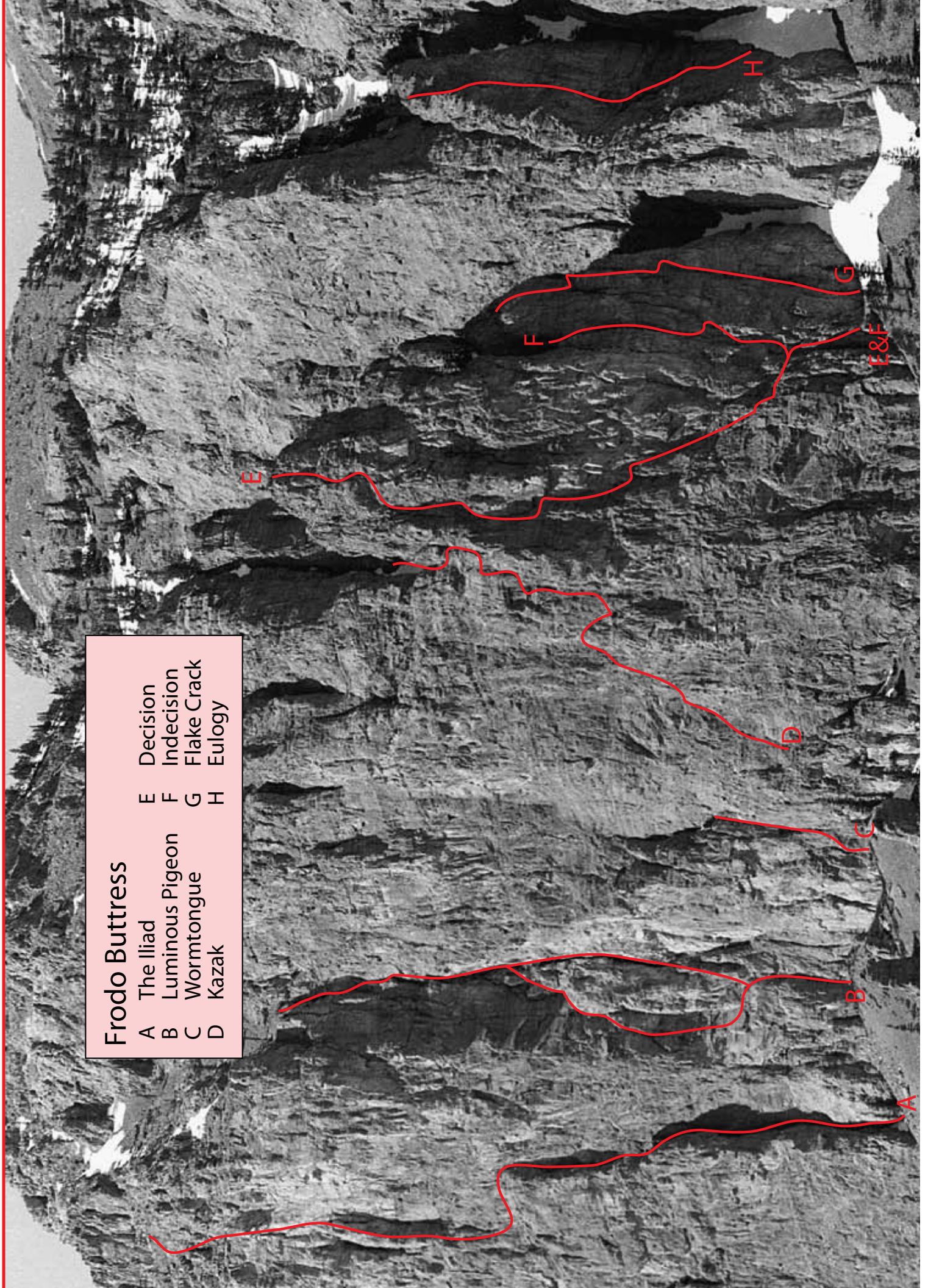
- 1) 30 m, 5.6 Follow a system of grooves that slants up to the right to a piton belay.
- 2) 30 m, 5.7 Move right and climb a corner at the side of a loose stack. Move back left to a groove and follow this to a ledge on the right (piton belay).
- 3) 30 m, 5.7 Move up right over a pinnacle; then drop down and traverse delicately right to the base of a chimney. Climb this to a belay on the left.
- 4) 40 m, 5.6 Continue up the chimney to ledges on the right, and then move up and left to reach a large exit gully.

### Decision 135 m, 5.7

## Frodo Buttress

A	The Iliad
B	Luminous Pigeon
C	Wormtongue
D	Kazak

E	Decision
F	Indecision
G	Flake Crack
H	Eulogy



J. Firth & J. Jones, March 1973

At the east end of Frodo Buttress, near the First Rune, is a large flake with a corner-crack on its left side (Flake Crack). Just left of this a series of ledges leads up steeply to the left, forming a ramp that terminates in a corner capped by a roof (Decision). Near the start of the ramp a corner system leads up slightly rightward to a chimney (Indecision).

Start at the base of the ramp, about 10 m left of Flake Crack at a small tree growing next to the cliff.

- 1) 55 m Climb up left following a series of ledges, and belay as high as possible near the base of a corner capped by a square-cut overhang.
- 2) 40 m Climb the corner until a traverse left below the overhang can be made and move up with difficulty to a crack. Climb the crack to a ledge, and then move right to belay.
- 3) 40 m Climb up and then right to a prominent crack and follow this to the top.

**Indecision** 80 m, 5.8

J. Jones & C. Smith, November 1970

Start at the ramp, as for Decision.

- 1) Climb up to below a triangular overhang at the base of the corner leading to the upper chimney. Pass the overhang on the right and continue up the corner for 15-20 m until a ledge about 5 m to the right can be reached. Belay below a good crack.
- 2) Make an awkward move left across the steep wall and climb up to a good ledge. Move left into the chimney and belay.
- 3) Climb the chimney passing two overhangs (piton at first).

**Flake Crack** 70 m, 5.8

P. Morrow, C. Perry & S. Jennings, March 1974

Start about 10 m left of the gully between Frodo Buttress and the First Rune below the obvious corner with a bush growing 5 m off the ground.

- 1) 45 m Climb the obvious crack and chimney to the top of the flake.
- 2) 15 m Move left and then climb up to a crack (crux) that leads up to a ledge with a small tree.
- 3) 15 m Move left and climb the wall to a large ledge.

# THE RUNES

The Runes are three relatively small buttresses separated by deep gullies and situated between Frodo and Bilbo buttresses. They are numbered from left to right. Climbs on the third buttress are particularly good as the rock is well-weathered and generally gives solid, technical climbing. The whole Rune area has the best selection of short, good-quality climbs and as noted in the introduction to CMC Valley, it is a popular location for early season climbing.

## Approach

The Runes are among the easiest of all the CMC Valley crags to access. The more easterly of two broad "valleys" leads directly to the cliffs. A small but obvious trail goes up from the overgrown road near the creek to an open area below the cliffs. See the introduction for details.



R. Amann & party, 1982

Eulogy climbs a steep crack in the left wall of the gully between the First and Second runes. If loose rock is removed it may be possible to free climb the crack making it an impressive pitch.

Start where the gully necks down at the top of a grassy slope.

- 1) 30 m Climb easy gray rock to a bushy ledge belay below the corner.
- 2) 50 m Climb the corner (mixed free and aid).



Alternate: D. Guthrie & J. Buszowski, May 1985

This worthwhile route goes up an obvious corner/chimney that splits the upper half of the buttress. The first pitch is surprisingly sustained, but can be adequately protected by pitons that at present are not in place.

Start Located on the front of the Second Rune and just right of a group of trees is a series of parallel grooves. Double Direct takes the right-hand one directly below the obvious upper corner.

- 1) 35 m, 5.7 Climb the wall trending slightly right to a small ledge. Move up and left to a short corner, and continue up to a small ledge at the base of the upper corner.
- 1 alt.) 35 m, 5.9 Climb a short, overhanging corner just around the left edge of the buttress in the gully. Continue up easier ground to a belay and then move right to join the normal route.
- 2) 30 m, 5.6 Climb the corner to a steep wall, move right and then climb up to a belay in the chimney.
- 3) 30 m, 5.4 Climb the chimney to large ledges.

Descent Scramble up to a level portion of the buttress, traverse off right and descend the gully.

**Brown Oaf** 90 m, 5.7

B. Greenwood & J. Jones, April 1973

Start by a second group of trees uphill and about 15 m right of Double Direct just at the entrance to the next big gully.

- 1) 45 m, 5.7 Climb up a good-looking yet run-out gray wall and then diagonal left across the steep face to a short V-groove. Climb this and the easier face above to a belay on the slabs below a break in the roofs.
- 2) 45 m Either climb directly through the roofs (5.9) or cross them at a smaller break on the right (5.7). Continue more easily to the arete and follow this to a level section.

Descent Traverse off right and descend the gully.

On the left side of the buttress, a prominent water groove separates a smaller cliff from the

Snakecharmer could benefit from the replacement of old piton runners with bolts, particularly the latter, which is fairly run-out.

Descent from Weed From the top of Weed climb down a short distance to a small scree bowl on the left (west) side of the buttress. Descend the scree to the edge of the gully and rappel from two bolts (one 45 m rope is sufficient).

Descent via the Main Descent Gully Climbs on the right-hand side of the buttress use this descent that is described in detail in the Runewall section.

**Loosey Goosey** 5.6

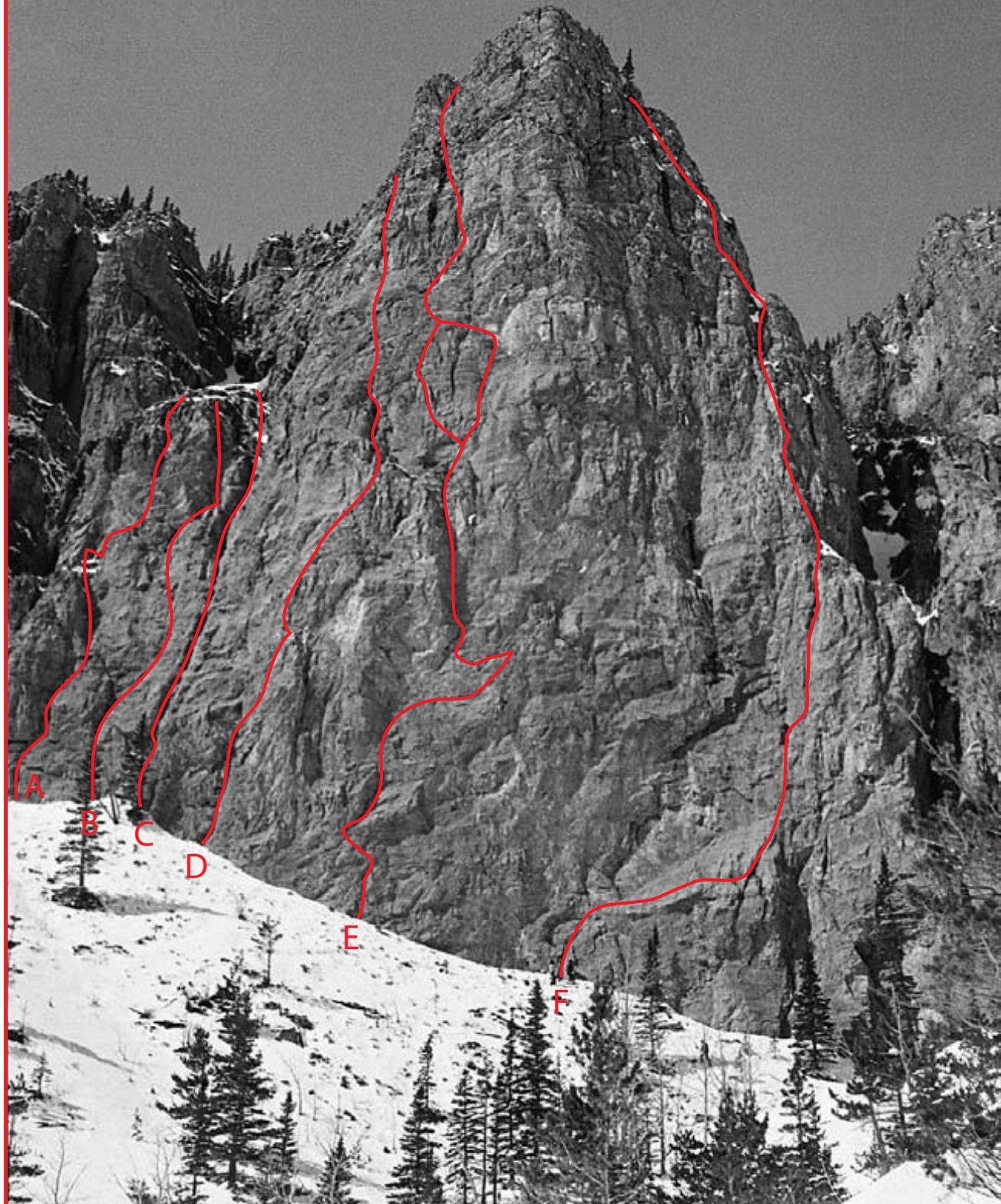
J. Elzinga & J. Martin, 1978

This uninspired route climbs the short crack in the gully wall, just left of the Weed descent route.

**Shirtlifter\*** 60 m, 5.7

J. Jones & S. Slymon, March 1973

Start below a right-facing corner just right of the edge of the Rune and about 10 m left of



### Third Rune

A	Shirtlifter	D	Chingle
B	Snakecharmer	E	Hurricane Holocaust
C	Weed	F	Route 3

Weed.

- 1) 30 m, 5.7 Climb the corner past a bulge and continue to a large ledge on the left.
- 2) 30 m, 5.7 Move right and climb the steep face via an obvious break to large ledges.

**Snakecharmer\*** 60 m, 5.8

J. Horne, J. Jones & R. Amann, March 1973

This interesting but fairly run-out route follows a sinuous line between Shirtlifter and Weed.

Start at a thin crack a few metres left of Weed.

- 1) 30 m, 5.8 Climb the crack to a corner below a bulge, place a runner as high as possible, and move right up a steep slab to a shallow groove just to the left of Weed. Continue up the face trending slightly left to a belay in a groove below overhangs.
- 2) 30 m, 5.7 Climb the groove and move right to the edge overlooking Weed. Continue up the steep corner above to large ledges.

**Weed\*\*** 60 m, 5.6

J. Jones & S. Slymon, March 1971

This excellent gear route follows the prominent water groove. The rock is good and the climbing is continuously interesting.

Start below and left of the groove, just left of a large tree.

- 1) 30 m, 5.6 Climb the short lower wall to a bay below the groove. Continue up the groove and belay below the upper bulge.
- 2) 30 m, 5.6 Continue past a bulge (crux) to ledges on the left side of the buttress.

**Chingle\*** 100 m, 5.8

B. Greenwood & J. Jones, October 1971

Chingle is a good face climb, with only one hard section, that follows the edge of the main buttress to the right of Weed. The climb deserves some attention and perhaps as a minimum, the piton that protects the crux could be replaced with a bolt.

Start about 7 m right of Weed at a steep corner to the right of a large tree.

- 1) 45 m, 5.8 Climb the corner to a ledge and continue up a crack on the right to a block. From the top of the block (piton), move left and climb the wall (crux) to small ledges. Continue up and right to a ledge at the base of a hidden corner.
- 2) 10 m Climb the corner to a flat ledge below the upper wall.
- 3) 45 m Climb out left over a bulge and continue up good gray rock to a groove near the top. Climb the groove to a large ledge.

Descent Either continue easily to the top of the buttress or traverse left on good ledges to scree slopes above Weed and descend as for that route. From the top of the buttress, the Main Descent Gully can be reached by scrambling down the east side and crossing a smaller gully

above Grumbit.

**Hurricane Holocaust\*\* 125 m, 5.9+**

J. Lauchlan & B. Keller, 1975

This milestone route was established in the traditional ground-up style of the day, with no bolts being used for protection. The climbing is steep and sustained, and is probably closer to 5.10a in technical difficulty. Protection on the first and fourth pitches is barely adequate and in its present condition the climb is a serious undertaking. The climb can be done without pitons but a small selection is recommended.

Start below the highest point of the buttress, by a dead tree about 30 m right of Weed.

- 1) 35 m, 5.9 Climb a shallow groove to an overhang (piton) and move up left with difficulty to a short corner. Climb this and the wall above to another corner (piton), and then traverse right to a small slab beneath an overhang. Cross the slab to easier ground on the right and move up to a bolt belay.
- 2) 30 m, 5.8 Move back down to the left and traverse left to the foot of a prominent corner (piton). Climb the corner (piton) to a ledge and belay on the right below a crack.
- 3) 30 m, 5.9 Climb a short distance up the crack and traverse left onto the face. Move diagonally left to easier ground and continue directly up the face past a fixed piton to a small ledge, with two bolts, below and left of the final groove.
- 3 alt.) 30 m, 5.9 Climb farther up the crack to a small overhang (fixed piton) and then traverse left across steep rock to a V-groove. Move down and traverse left to join the original pitch.
- 4) 30 m, 5.9+ Move right and then up into the groove. Climb this with difficulty (poor protection) and then move left near the top to a ledge. A better alternative is to traverse left from the base of the groove for a few metres to a flake line that diagonals rightward up the steep wall. Follow this (Friend placement) to the large ledge.

Descent as for Chingle.

**Route 3 125 m, 5.9**

J. Firth & J. Jones, April 1973

Fifteen metres right of Hurricane Holocaust is a large gray slab a short distance above the ground. The route traverses across the slab and climbs a shallow corner to the right edge of the buttress,

which is then followed to the top. The route was done before the era of bolt protection and more direct route(s) should be possible up this promising piece of rock.

Start below the lower, left corner of the slab.

- 1) 40 m, 5.8 Move up onto the slab and cross it low down to its right side. Climb a short wall to a groove and continue up this to a small ledge on the left.
- 2) 25 m, 5.9 Traverse right to a blind crack that leads up with difficulty to ledges on the arete.
- 3-4) Continue more easily up the edge of the buttress.

Descent From the top of the buttress, the Main Descent Gully can be reached by scrambling down the east side and crossing a smaller gully above Grumbit.

**Grumbit 45 m, 5.7**

R. Amann, J. Lauchlan & G. Jennings, March 1974

This short face climb is situated a few metres to the left of the Main Descent Gully. It begins at a small pillar and angles up left to a chimney. The addition of one or two bolts to the first pitch is probably justified as it is quite serious for its grade.

Start at the small pillar.

- 1) 20 m, 5.7 Climb to the top of the pillar and continue up left to a scoop that leads to the base of the chimney.
- 2) 25 m Continue easily up the chimney.

Descent By rappel or by moving east into the Main Descent Gully.

**Cold War 45 m, 5.7**

S. Jennings & C. Perry, March 1974

This route starts at the same point as Grumbit and climbs the edge of the buttress between that route and the descent gully.

- 1) 45 m, 5.7 Climb to the top of the pillar and move up right to a thin crack near the edge. Climb over an overlap to a left-facing crack and continue to the top of the pinnacle overlooking the descent gully. Move right and follow a ramp to the top. Alternatively, go left from above the left-facing crack and climb the front face via a break in the bulges.

## Descent Gully Area

The following climbs are located in the upper part of the Main Descent Gully, above the lower cliff.

**Whore's Heart** 40 m, 5.7

J. Lauchlan & J. Martin, April 1974

A short distance above the small cliff at the base of the descent gully are two shallow corners in the left wall. Whore's Heart climbs the left-hand of these.

**Something Somewhere** 15 m, 5.7

J. Lauchlan, P. Merkley, M. Sawyer, J. Sterner & D. Wightt, 1974

Farther up the Main Descent Gully, where it starts to widen out and bend round to the right, is a small pinnacle, to the right of which is a short wall of good gray rock. Several climbs are located on this wall. Descent is to the left down the left-hand branch of the gully.

Something Somewhere is a short but interesting route that climbs a steep corner in a bay at the left end of the wall.

**Window of Opportunity** 25 m, 5.8

G. Macrae & G. Cornell, September, 1997

On the gray wall about 12 m right of the corner of Something Somewhere is an obvious L-shaped roof. The route goes up white rock beneath the roof, continues over the right side of the roof, and then moves slightly left up slabs to the top. Both the rock and protection are reported to be good.

**Shark Breath** 25 m, 5.6

G. Cornell & G. Macrae, September, 1997

A few metres up the slope to the right of the previous route is a small vertical rock fin. The climb goes over a bulge immediately left of the fin and continues up a slab to finish just left of a small chimney.

**Lost Rune** 150 m, 5.6

J. Martin, G. Mathew & J. Tanner, 1974

Up and to the right of the previous route is a long pillar with a broad, clean wall at its base. The route climbs the wall (5.6) and continues up a series of easier pitches on the crest of the pillar.

## The Runewall

The Runewall is essentially the West or Southwest Face of Bilbo Buttress and is separated from The Runes by the Main Descent Gully. It has a large scree cone just right of centre, above which is a prominent corner climbed by Watchman's Crack. Many of the unstarred routes are on poor rock and are quite scrappy, but there are a number of areas of good rock, some of which have yet to be developed.

### Approach

Along with The Runes, The Runewall is among the easiest of all the CMC Valley crags to access and the same approach is used.

### Main Descent Gully

All the routes on The Runewall descend this gully. Follow scree and easy slabs west into the main gully between the Third Rune and Runewall. The gully itself is straightforward and usually has several logs to climb down on the short wall at the bottom.

#### Groundfall Wall\* 25 m, 5.10b

J. Lauchlan, B. Keller & M. Keller, 1975

This short, poorly-protected route climbs a short wall of good rock immediately right of the Descent Gully. It was originally climbed in bold, ground-up style and together with Hurricane Holocaust was part of the evolutionary process that lead to the use of bolts on The Maker. Now, it seems like a relic of a bygone age that could seriously benefit from a retrofit.

Start about 5 m right of the descent gully at good holds below and left of two fixed pitons close together.

- 1) 25 m, 5.10b Climb up a short distance and then traverse right to below the pitons. Continue more or less directly up the wall past a third fixed piton to finish on the edge of the buttress.

Descent Either go left into the Descent Gully or traverse to the belay on Edna's Armpit and rappel.

#### Edna's Armpit\* 50 m, 5.7

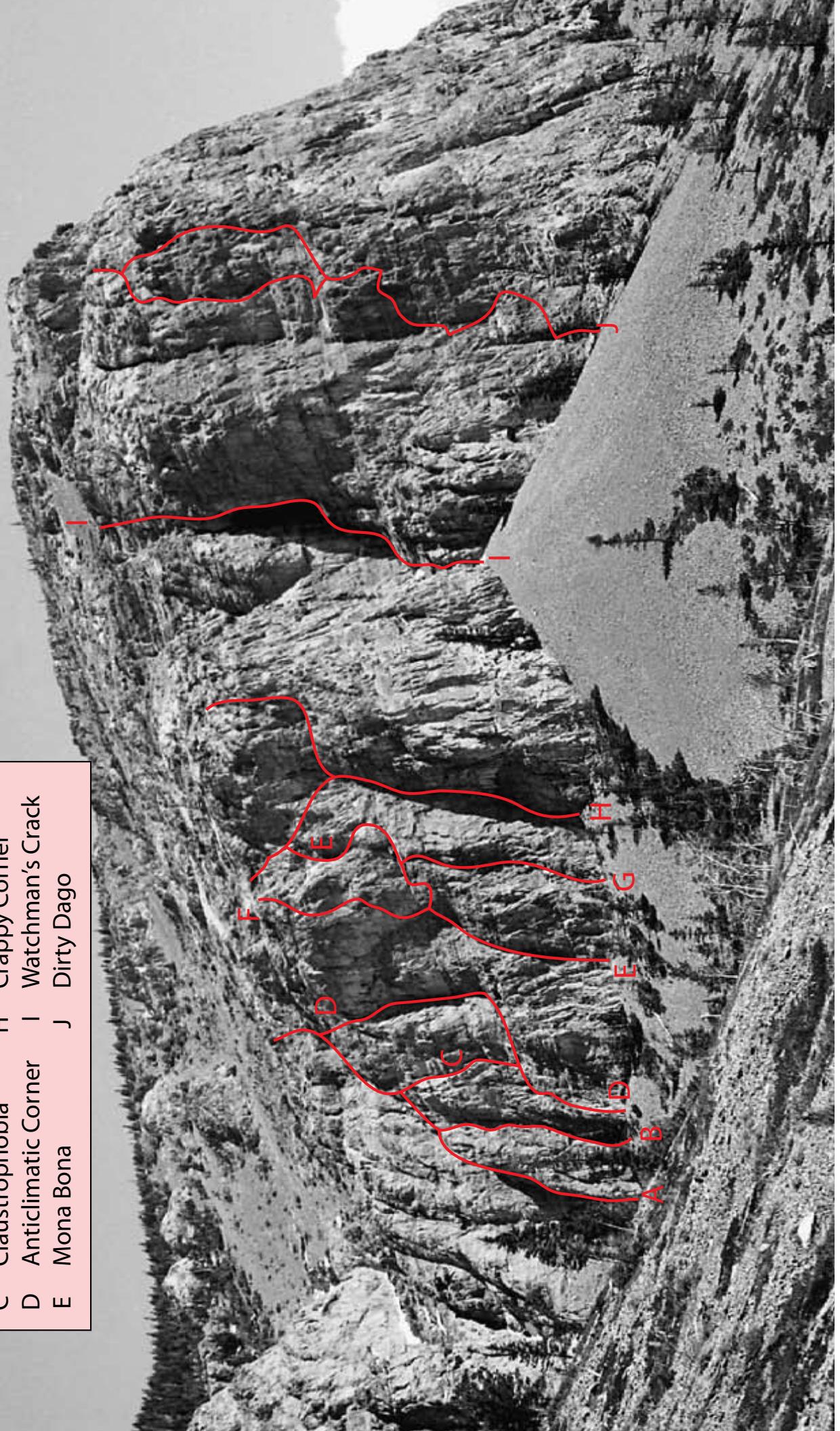
J. Lauchlan & R. Amann, April 1973

On the right edge of Groundfall Wall is a shallow corner and right again is a chimney. Edna's Armpit follows the corner and gives one pitch of good technical climbing that can be adequately protected with gear.

- 1) 30 m, 5.7 Climb the corner to a small ledge in a scoop (fixed belay).
- 2) 20 m Either rappel or scramble up loose easy rock to the top.

#### The Skoope 60 m, 5.7

Runewall	
A	Skoope Buttress
B	The Morning After
C	Claustrophobia
D	Anticlimatic Corner
E	Mona Bona
F	Rubble Rouser
G	Mona Bona Erect
H	Crappy Corner
I	Watchman's Crack
J	Dirty Dago



J. Lauchlan & R. Lefurgey, August 1971

This route follows the chimney just right of Edna's Armpit.

- 1) 20 m Climb the chimney and belay a few metres above a chockstone.
- 2) 40 m Continue up into a scoop and either climb a smooth ramp on the left (5.7) or exit right up a chimney that leads to the ridge.

**Skoope Buttress** 75 m, 5.6

J. Lauchlan & J. Sterner, April 1974

A small buttress forms the right side of the chimney and higher up turns into an easy ridge. The climb starts in a shallow corner on the right edge of the buttress.

- 1) 35 m Climb the corner, move left and continue up the buttress to an easier angled section.
- 2) 40 m Continue up the ridge to the top.

**The Morning After** 75 m, 5.6

J. Lauchlan & J. Sterner, April 1974

This climbs a broad grassy corner 5 m right of Skoope Buttress and joins it at about half height.

**Claustrophobia** 70 m, 5.5

J. Sterner, D. Zaychuk, J. Martin & J. Tanner, April 1974

To the right of The Morning After is a large sloping ledge at about one-third height.

Start below the lower, left end of the ledge.

- 1) 20 m Scramble up to the ledge and move right a short distance to belay.
- 2) 30 m Move back left and climb the corner, which becomes a tight squeeze at the top.
- 3) 20 m Continue as for Skoope Buttress.

**Anticlimatic Corner** 65 m, 5.7

J. Lauchlan & J. Sterner, April 1974

This climbs a corner at the right end of the ledge of Claustrophobia.

- 1) 30 m Scramble up to the right end of the ledge and belay at the foot of the corner.
- 2) 40 m Climb the corner, staying on the right at first.

**Mona Bona\*** 70 m, 5.6

C. Perry & P. Merkley, April 1974

About 20 m right of Claustrophobia and Anticlimatic Corner is a small corner with a thin crack in the wall above.

- 1) 40 m, 5.6 Climb the corner to an easier-angled section. Move up and traverse right below a steep yellow wall to reach a smooth, sloping ledge (bolt belay).
- 2) 15 m, 5.6 Traverse right onto the steep wall overlooking Crappy Corner, move up with difficulty and continue up left to a stance.
- 3) 15 m Scramble up to the top.

Rubble Rouser 60 m, 5.9, A1

J. Lauchlan & J. Firth, April 1974

This is a direct finish to Mona Bona.

- 1) 30 m Climb the first part of Mona Bona and belay below the continuation crack in the steep yellow wall.
- 2) 30 m Climb the crack on its left side using mixed free and aid. Where the crack peters out, hand traverse right and climb up to a small ledge. Follow the steep wall and jamcrack to the top.

Mona Bona Erect 35 m, 5.7

P. Merkley, M. Sawyer & D. Wightt, April 1974

This climbs a broad, gray corner that leads directly to the belay at the top of pitch 1 of Mona Bona. Good natural protection is difficult to arrange. Start just right of two dead trees and left of the larger Crappy Corner.

Crappy Corner 60 m, 5.7

G. Homer & J. Jones, April 1971

Immediately right of Mona Bona Erect is a prominent open book.

- 1) 35 m, 5.7 Climb the corner to shattered ledges.
- 2) Exit to the left or the right.

Watchman's Crack 60 m, 5.5

J. Keunzel & F. Williamson, May 1971

Start at the base of the gully right of Crappy Corner at the top of a large scree cone. Follow the gully for two pitches exiting up the right-hand chimney.

Dirty Dago\*\* 95 m, 5.9

G. Homer & J. Jones, April 1971

Pitch 3 alt.: C. Perry & J. Martin, July 1982

Located to the right of Watchman's Crack, before the edge of the buttress, is a steep, open corner. This is climbed by Dirty Dago—one of the best of the older climbs. Originally graded 5.8 by an insistent Jon Jones, it was frequently used as a yardstick for that grade, which accounts for some of the grading sandbags in the area. The main corner line is not followed all the way and this may make an interesting modern route. A direct start to the right-hand finish may be worthwhile up a sweep of steep and possibly good rock.

The climb has little fixed gear and is difficult to protect well. At present, a few pitons are worth taking. From Mona Bona follow a good trail across the scree cone below Watchman's Crack to arrive at the base of Dirty Dago.

Start behind two trees below the broad open corner of gray rock.

- 1) 20 m, 5.8 Climb a few metres up the groove and traverse right onto the face at an obvious break. Continue diagonally up right to bypass a steep section and then go up and back left to a ledge in the main groove. (The ledge can be reached directly at 5.10a, as on the first ascent.)
- 2) 35 m, 5.8 Climb a cracked wall on the left to ledges. Step right into the main groove and climb it to a fixed pin. Traverse diagonally right to below a steep section and continue immediately below this round an arete. Climb up to a large ledge. There are three lines of weakness above the ledge: the main groove on the left, a shallow groove above the belay and a crack near the right arete.
- 3) 40 m, 5.9 Climb the shallow groove to a ramp that slants up left. At the top of the ramp, above a fixed pin, either make a difficult mantle right onto a ledge in the groove or move left and up to another fixed pin; then step right onto the ledge. Continue easily to a ledge near the top.

3 alt.) 45 m, 5.8 Traverse right and climb the crack near the arete.

# SOUTH FACE OF BILBO BUTTRESS

Scene of the earliest CMC route development, this cliff is largely ignored today. Dog's Biscuit is a good short route and is easily combined with others on The Runes and Runewall to the left. As the cliff heads east and then north, it grows considerably in height and complexity. Deep gullies and corner systems separate the crag into striking aretes and intriguing formations. Exploration will likely unearth a few good existing routes and perhaps some new ones.

## Approach

As for The Runes and follow scree trails right (east) beneath the crag. These end near Crowley's Corner and the farther east you go the more obscure the routes become.

## Descent

For all routes going to the top of the cliff, walk left and go down the Main Descent Gully.

### Dog's Biscuit\* 70 m, 5.7

C. Perry & S. Jennings, March 1973

On the south face of the buttress, 100 m east of Dirty Dago, is a wall of good gray rock bounded on the right by a pillar. Two routes climb the wall, both starting from ledges on the left at the top of a short chimney. Dog's Biscuit is the easier of the two and is well worthwhile. A small selection of pitons is useful on both climbs, which have little fixed gear.

Start Follow the scree trail east until it joins the cliff near the low point of a long pillar or buttress. Scramble up and back left (west) to a broad bay with a low-angle, right-facing chimney on its left side. Climb the chimney and continue left on ledges to a bolt belay.

- 1) 35 m, 5.7 Climb up easily for about 15 m and move right to a bolt. Move up and left, and then step right and continue directly up the wall. Traverse left to the foot of a groove and belay a few metres up this in a niche.
- 2) 35 m, 5.7 Climb the groove to a bulge, move out left and continue more easily to the top.

### El Cid\* 85 m, 5.7 or 5.8

J. Firth & C. Perry, April 1973

Alternate: N. Hellewell & C. Perry, February 1977

Start as for Dog's Biscuit. Begin near the top of the approach chimney, below a shallow groove.

- 1) 40 m, 5.7 Climb the groove and continue up the wall, trending right. Move left and belay on a small ledge.
- 2) 45 m, 5.7 Follow a ramp and corner system on the left to the top.

2 alt.) 20 m, 5.8 Traverse right and down slightly to the top of a groove. (An unclimbed line reaches this point directly from below.) Continue right with difficulty to a ledge below a right-facing corner.

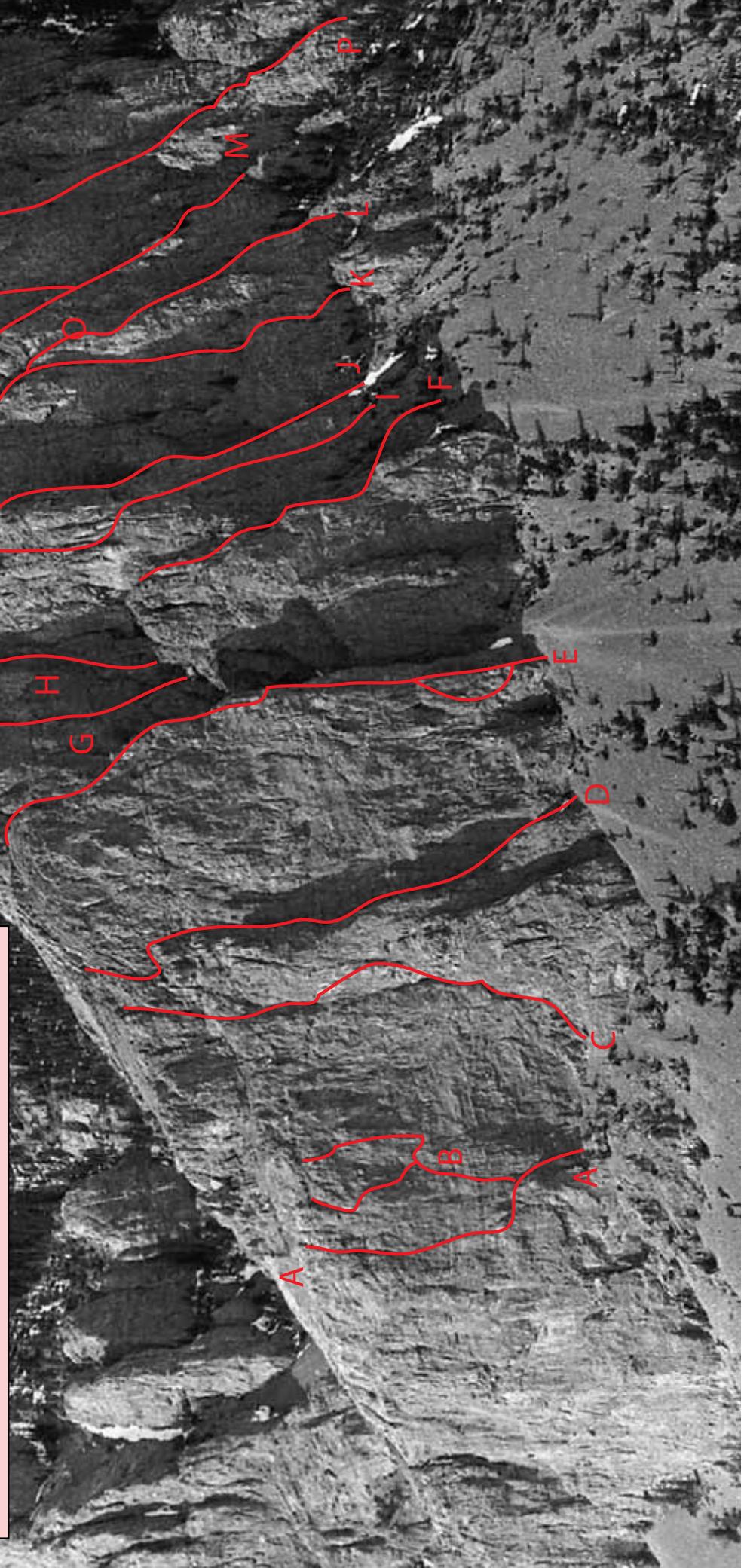
3 alt.) 30 m Climb the corner to a ledge on the left.

4 alt.) 25 m Continue to the top.

### Dogleg Corner 130 m, 5.9

### South Face of Bilbo

A Dog's Biscuit	I Knackered Cat
B El Cid	J Cat Knackerer
C Dogleg Corner	K The Soal
D Lacquered Crow	L Blackened Rat
E Crowley's Corner	M Vegetable
F Peanut Point	N Bishop's Daughter
G Devil's Dessert	O Electric Apples
H Devil's Banquet	P Magnetic Floss



R. Breeze & J. Horne, 1972

Start approach as for Dog's Biscuit, but move across right to a steep, yellow corner on the left side of a large pillar.

- 1) Climb the left side of the pillar past a prominent yellow corner until just right of a groove near the apex of the pillar.
- 2) 5.9 Move left with difficulty to gain the groove and continue up this until it steepens. Traverse left and climb a short overhanging wall; then move back left into the prominent corner.
- 3) 5.6 Continue up the corner to the top.

1-2 alt.) On the original ascent a traverse left into the groove may have been made earlier.

**Lacquered Crow 110 m, 5.6**

J. Jones, B. Schneider & C. Smith, October 1970

This route climbs the large corner system on the right side of the long pillar or buttress.

Start From the scree trail go up a large scree cone for 50 m to a right-facing chimney system on the east side of the pilar. Scramble up the gully for about 45 m and belay below a bottleneck.

- 1) 30 m Climb the bottleneck (crux) and continue up cracks to a ledge.
- 2) 30 m Climb the gully above, following the left-hand break to a large ledge.
- 3) 30 m Climb up above the ledge to a belay.
- 4) 20 m Trend up and right over easy, broken rock to the top.

**Crowley's Corner 130 m, 5.8**

J. White & P. Zvengrowski, May 1971

The climb follows the well-defined rib to the right of Lacquered Crow and immediately left of a deep gully. The bottom section can be climbed directly up the corner or via the wall on the left.

Start in a wide crack to the right of the lowest part of the yellow rib.

- 1) 10 m Climb up to a protruding ledge, left of the main corner.
- 1 alt.) 5.8 Climb directly up the corner.
- 2) 5.8 Traverse up left on easy ground for 5-10 m, and then move right and up with difficulty to a belay at the top of the main corner.
- 3) 5.6 Move right and climb up to a double dihedral. Follow this on good holds to a belay on the left.
- 4) 5.6 Climb the face above, first to the left, then moving right almost to a corner. Layback up to a belay.
- 5-6) Follow the crest of the rib easily to the top.

**Peanut Point 90 m, 5.5**

J. Martin & G. Pilkington, April 1971

About 100 m right of Crowley's Corner is a buttress that reaches about halfway up the cliff. This is Peanut Point.

**Start** The route follows the rib on the right side of the buttress and begins just right of the rib, at a ledge with some small trees.

- 1) 25 m Climb a groove to a small ledge.
- 2) 25 m Continue easily up left and climb a short, loose wall. Move left and up slightly to a tree belay.
- 3) 40 m, 5.5 Climb the obvious crack above and then traverse right a short distance below an overhang to a groove. Climb this and the crack above to the top.

**Descent** An easy route to the top of the cliff leads up left from the small col behind Peanut Point. Two other routes, Devil's Dessert and Devil's Banquet, climb the two prominent corner systems in the steep wall above. Alternatively, there is an easy descent in the gully to the right (east).

**Devil's Dessert** 60 m, 5.7

R. Breeze & J. Horne, May 1972

This route climbs the left of the two corner systems in the steep wall above the top of Peanut Point. Approach either via that route or use an easy gully to the right (east) of the point.

**Devil's Banquet** 80 m, 5.6

G. Pilkington & S. Slymon, April 1971

Devil's Banquet climbs the corner to the right of Devil's Dessert. Either climb the Peanut Point route or use an easy gully to the right (east) of the point to reach the start of the climb.

- 1) Move up right into the main corner.
- 2) 45 m Continue up the corner to a belay on the left.
- 3) Climb the loose wall above to the top.

**Knackered Cat** 150 m, 5.6

B. Greenwood, J. Keunzel & F. Williamson, April 1971

Immediately right of Peanut Point is a buttress with a protruding rib on its right side at the bottom. Knackered Cat begins below a shallow corner immediately left of the rib and to the right of a crack. Easy climbing leads almost to the base of the corner.

- 1) Move left and then back right to gain the corner. Continue up to a small stance on a slab.
- 2) Climb diagonally left across the slab, over a bulge and up to a small stance below a corner.
- 3) Climb the corner. From a pinnacle on the left side of the buttress, climb diagonally left across a wall and then climb easy rock up and right to a big ledge on the crest of the buttress.
- 4) Follow the crest of the buttress to the top.

### Cat Knackerer 150 m, 5.9

B. Greenwood & S. Slymon, May 1971

This route climbs the protruding rib to the right of Knackered Cat.

- 1) Scramble up the rib to the base of a steep slab.
- 2) Climb the slab to an overhang. Bypass this on the right and then climb straight up until the wall steepens. Traverse left and move up to a ledge.
- 3) Climb slabs above to a steep wall. Climb this (5.9, fixed pitons) and gain a chimney that is followed to a good belay (top of pitch 3 of Knackered Cat).
- 4) Follow the crest of the buttress as for Knackered Cat.

### The Soal\* 90 m, 5.8

J. Firth & J. Horne, June 1973

On the wall to the right of the Cat Knackerer buttress are two corner systems. The Soal follows the right-hand of these. Scramble up to a rib behind a huge squat rock just out from the wall.

Start From the rib go down the scree for 10 m to a large tree and scramble up to the base of a short corner leading to a ramp.

- 1) 40 m Move up left on the ramp and then climb up over a bulge into a groove. Continue up this and climb a second bulge to a tree. Move left and up to a belay below the crack.
- 2) 50 m Climb the crack, which is very steep, to a small ledge, then continue up a chimney to the top.

Descent The route ends on the crest of a rib (Blackened Rat). Continue up that route, otherwise an easy descent leads down the gully to the right (east).

### Blackened Rat 160 m, 5.5

J. Martin, S. Slymon & S. Stahl, April 1971

This route follows the rib to the right of The Soal. From the rib near the base of The Soal cross a gully to the right and scramble up to a rib with a tree below a steep section. Alternatively, traverse scree below the squat rock near The Soal and scramble up more directly to the route.

- 1) 30 m Climb a short distance up slabs; then traverse left to a corner and follow it to a tree ledge.
- 2) 35 m Traverse up and right to a corner on the right edge of the rib. Climb this (loose) and then traverse up and left on slabs to a belay at the left edge of the rib.
- 3) 30 m Traverse right on slabs to a steep groove. Climb this (5.5) until the angle eases and continue easily to a large ledge (top of The Soal).
- 4-5) 65 m Follow the crest of the rib easily to the top.

### Vegetable 170 m, 5.6, A1

J. Martin, P. Zvengrowski & D. Knaak, May 1972

To the right of Blackened Rat is a deep gully. Vegetable follows a broken rib to the right of the

gully that runs up and left. Scramble up to a short steep wall on the rib.

- 1) Climb the steep wall and the rib above to a large tree.
- 2) Continue easily up a ridge to a belay above a short wall.
- 3) Climb the wall on the right side and continue to a tree ledge.
- 4) Walk and traverse easily left past a small dead tree. Climb a short, steep wall (two or three aid moves) and pull up left into a corner. Follow the corner to a belay behind a pinnacle.
- 5) Climb the corner/gully on the left to the top.

### Bishop's Daughter 180 m, 5.7

T. Mould & M. Toft, May 1973

Scramble up the gully right of Vegetable to a prominent crack.

- 1) 40 m Climb the crack and belay on large ledges on the left.
- 2) 30 m Climb straight up a steep wall and continue over a bulge to a ledge with a small tree.
- 3) 20 m Go up and right over blocks; then drop down and traverse farther right to an inside corner. Climb the corner (5.7) to a ledge.
- 4) 45 m Climb an obvious chimney, go slightly left and up to a loose bulge, climb this and continue to a good ledge.
- 5) 45 m Aim for the final exit groove and follow this past some steep layback moves to the top.

### Electric Apples 165 m, 5.7

J. Martin & J. White, June 1971

This route starts in the gully right of Vegetable and finishes in a prominent exit gully near the high point of the crag. Start as for Bishop's Daughter. The routes diverge after one pitch.

- 1) 40 m Climb the crack, as for Bishop's Daughter, and belay on the large ledges on the left.
- 2) 35 m Descend a short distance to the right and then continue right to a steep corner/

crack. Climb this (5.7) to its top and belay above loose blocks.

- 3) 30 m Climb the wall to the right and continue up a slabby groove. Climb the chimney above and when it ends at an overhanging wall, traverse right across steep slabs to a large ledge at the base of the exit gully.
- 4) 20 m Climb a short chimney, then continue more easily to a belay on the left below a steep section.
- 5) 40 m Climb the steep wall on the left and then continue without difficulty to the top.

**Magnetic Floss 160 m, 5.7**

J. Martin & J. White, October 1971

This route follows a scrappy rib right of Electric Apples. (The line marked on the photograph is approximate.) Climb up the first gully right of Electric Apples and traverse left onto the rib where it steepens.

- 1) Climb easily to a short overhanging wall. After a few awkward moves, traverse left to a steep corner/crack and follow this to a tree ledge.
- 2) Traverse left around a rib into a corner that overhangs at the top. Climb nearly to the top of the corner; then step right and climb a short face to ledges.
- 3) Traverse left and climb an easy chimney. Belay down right at a tree.
- 4) From the top of a tottery block, step across to a steep wall. Move up and right; then climb a slab to a large ledge.
- 5) Climb the steep rib above on its right side to the top.

# EPHEL DUATH

Ephel Duath is a large cliff at the head of a side valley west of Wakonda Buttress. It consists of a series of impressive buttresses and extends across the side of Wendell Mountain. There are relatively few natural lines, however, and generally the rock is mediocre.

## Approach & Descent

All climbs require an early start as the approach takes about three hours from the parking lot and descent via the east ridge is exposed and time-consuming. An alternative descent down easy scree slopes on the west side of the mountain takes considerably longer, particularly if return to the base of the cliff is necessary.

The first two climbs, Hitchcock Railway and Borkum Riff, are situated on a smaller triangular buttress at the east side of the cliffs, directly above the side valley.

### Hitchcock Railway 375 m, 5.8

J. Jones & J. Horne, May 1971

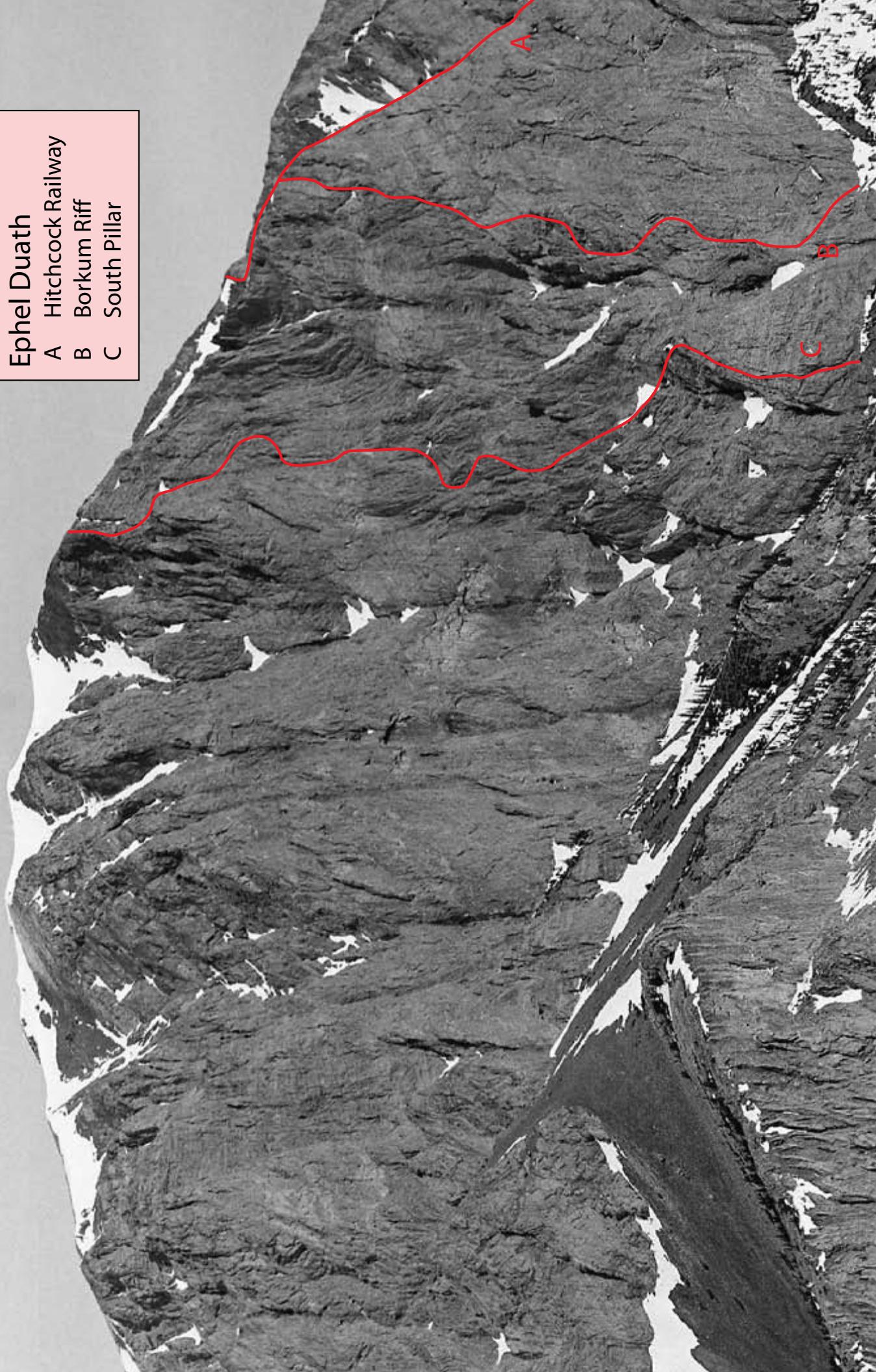
This climb follows the east ridge of the triangular buttress and is mainly 5.5. Start below a shallow groove immediately left of a large gully.

- 1) 40 m Climb the groove to a large ledge on the left.
- 2) 20 m Move up and then traverse left to the top of a short crack. Continue left and belay on a small pinnacle.
- 3) 40 m, 5.6 Climb up and left toward trees; belay by a small tree.
- 4) 20 m Climb the crack above, then traverse left to a large ledge with cracks above.
- 5) 35 m Climb the left-hand crack for about 10 m and then follow an easy break right until level with a base of a chimney.
- 6) 40 m Climb the chimney and continue up to the second large fir tree.
- 7) 35 m, 5.6 Climb a steep wall to the right and then diagonal right following a ramp. Move round the corner to easier climbing that leads to a ledge on the ridge.
- 8) 40 m Follow the ridge to an awkward stance in a groove.
- 9) 35 m Move up a short distance, and then step round left and climb a small corner. Follow the groove above and continue over loose rock to a large ledge, situated to the left of a yellow overhang (visible from the stance).
- 10) 40 m, 5.8 Climb up and right on steep rock until easier climbing is reached on the ridge. Follow the ridge to a stance below loose rock.
- 11) 30 m Climb rotten rock to the top of the buttress.

### Borkum Riff 350 m, 5.8

Ephel Duath

- A Hitchcock Railway
- B Borkum Riff
- C South Pillar



G. Homer & J. Jones

This route climbs the west edge of the buttress and is mainly 5.6-5.7 with only one pitch of 5.8. White Slabs, a route climbed in 1978 by U. Kallen, basically follows the same line.

Scramble up from the right to a ledge with a small tree just right of a snowpatch. Follow a slanting groove up right until a traverse left can be made (two pitches). Continue up, then go up and left toward a large gully. Follow the first possible groove up to a band of overhangs, traverse beneath them and climb a smooth wall (5.8) to the edge of the buttress. Stay on slabs left of the edge for three long pitches until a tree at the base of a ramp is reached. One more pitch leads to easy ground and the top of the buttress.

**South Pillar 600 m, 5.8**

U. Kallen & G. Spohr, May 1978

This is the right-hand of the three main pillars on Ephel Duath. Start beneath a groove on the left side of a small, pear-shaped buttress below the pillar.

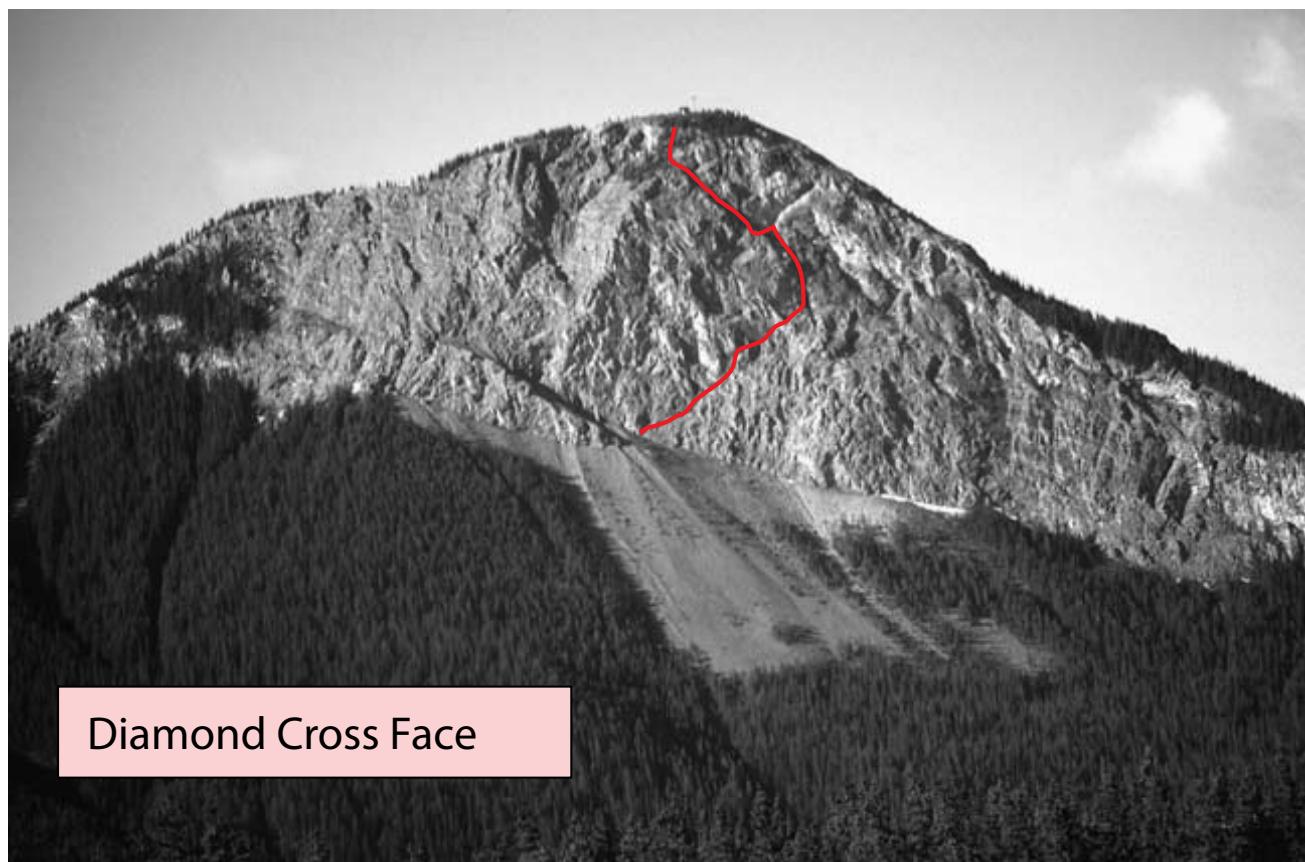
- 1) 45 m, 5.8 Climb the wall and make a difficult move to gain the base of the groove. Continue up the groove to a bolt belay.
- 2) 25 m, 5.6 Climb over a bulge and follow the right-hand groove; move up left past a big loose block to a scoop.
- 3) 45 m, 5.8 Continue up slabby rock, over a bulge and up to a ridge at the top of the small buttress.
- 4-5) 90 m Scramble up left and follow an easy water runnel to a belay below a left-slanting groove.
- 6) 45 m, 5.6 Climb the groove and follow a crack back right to a belay in a scoop.
- 7-8) 70 m Continue up easy ground to big ledges with a tree.
- 9-10) 85 m, 5.6 Walk right to the end of the ledges and climb up and right on sloping holds to gain an easy runnel. Go up this to a large scoop.
- 11) 40 m, 5.8 Climb the left side of the scoop and follow a steep pillar to a small niche.
- 12) 45 m, 5.7 Traverse right over exposed rock and follow grooves to the top of a small pillar. Belay 5-10 m higher.
- 13) 45 m, 5.8 Climb back left over slabby rock to a runnel and go up this, past a bulge, to easier ground.
- 14) 45 m, 5.7 Continue up to a notch on the ridge. Follow the ridge past a bulge, drop down the other side and climb part way up a groove.
- 15) Continue up the groove to the summit ridge.

# McCONNELL RIDGE

The Diamond Cross Face is a large cliff situated high on the north side of McConnell Ridge directly across the Bow Valley from Yamnuska. During the early days of Bow Valley exploration a route was climbed on the face and has probably not been repeated.

## Approach

The face was originally reached directly up the scree in about 1.5 hours from the Yamnuska Centre (Bowfort Lodge), previously part of the Diamond Cross Ranch. An alternative approach may be possible using the Prairie View hiking trail on the back of the mountain beginning at Barrier Lake dam. The trail follows the east ridge to a fire lookout on the summit and is accessible by mountain bike. From the ridge it should be possible to drop down to the east end of the face and then traverse across to the start of the route. The Yates Route from the Yamnuska Centre also links up with the Prairie View trail.



## Diamond Cross Face 330 m, 5.8 A0

D. Vockeroth & K. Hahn, August 1963

The only climb done to date follows an obvious rising traverse line up and right across the centre of the face and then diagonals back left to the summit. It is reported to be quite loose and has probably still not had a second ascent. The original description is given below and the line drawn on the photograph is approximate.

- 1-3) 100 m Follow an easy traverse line up and right to the base of a steep crack.
- 4) Climb a short distance up the crack and then move left and go up loose rock to easy ground. Move right along a rising ledge to a belay above a hole.
- 5) 45 m Continue right along a grassy ledge to a large boulder. Move farther right and make a rising traverse to the foot of a short, smooth wall.
- 6) 20 m Climb the wall to easy ground above.
- 7) 15 m Traverse up and back left over grassy rock to a large cave.
- 8) 35 m Use the rope to descend 30 m down and to the left (piton in the upper west corner of the cave) and then climb an easy ledge system to a good belay.
- 9-10) Follow ledges up and left over easy ground.
- 11) 35 m Climb a short corner and then move up and right to a ledge. Traverse up and back left to a cave.
- 12) 15 m Climb steep rock left of the cave to join the east ridge 30 m below the summit.

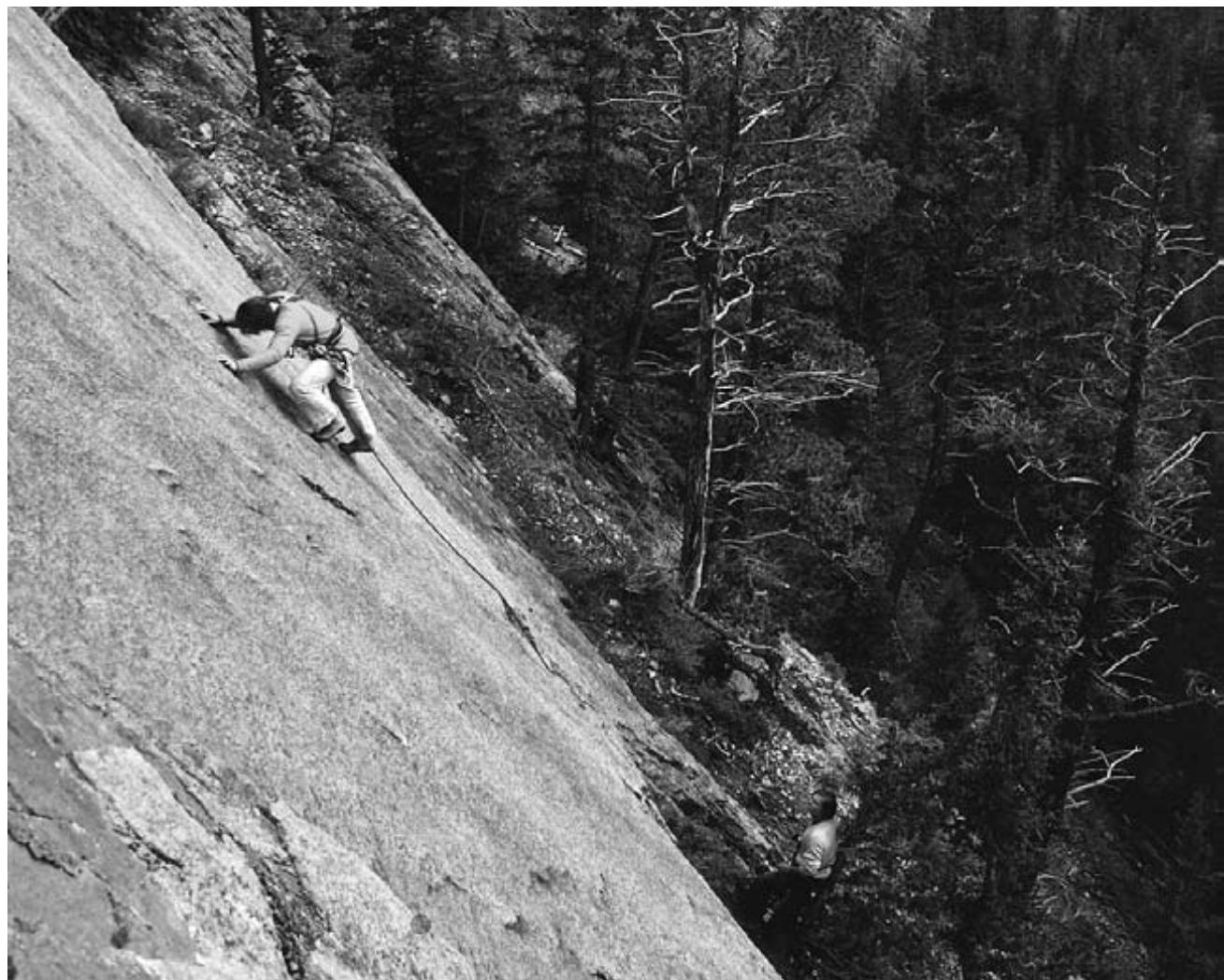
Opposite: Bruce Keller on the first ascent  
of Rough Mix on Heart Slab.

# HEART CREEK

Heart Creek crosses the Trans-Canada Highway just east of the Lac des Arcs interchange and drains a narrow valley between Heart Mountain and Mount McGillivray. The valley has long been popular with hikers and in recent years has become a major sport climbing venue. These are described in the book *Sport Climbs in the Canadian Rockies* by John Martin and Jon Jones. Not included, however, are the traditional climbing areas of Lower Heart Crag and Heart Slab. In the early years of Bow Valley rock development, Heart Slab was one of the premier venues and for high quality slab climbing it is still a top-notch destination. Bruce Keller's early on-sight lead of the run-out crux on Rough Mix was one of the more impressive and memorable pitches of the '70s. The information below is intended to complement that given in the sport climbing guidebook that contains a detailed map of the valley. Some of the bolts have aluminum hangers with small holes that will not accept all carabiners.

## Parking

Many people park alongside the Trans-Canada Highway near the Heart Creek crossing. Otherwise use the Heart Creek trail starting at the parking area located in the southwest quadrant of the Lac des Arcs interchange. The trail parallels the highway for about 700 m and then continues up the creek.



# LOWER HEART CRAG

This is a large cliff on the right (west) side of the valley just around the corner from Jupiter Rock, a popular sport climbing cliff. A sport climbing area called Blackheart is located on the lower left side of Lower Heart Crag (see map in Sport Climbs guidebook) and is not described here. Lower Heart Crag is a big rambling cliff about 200 m high with an extremely steep, bowl-shaped central wall. The few established routes were done in ground-up style and currently require pitons. The rock quality is variable and at the south end covered with lichen. However, there are some excellent individual pitches on some of the routes.

## Descent

Currently, there are no established rappel routes. For Stairway To Heaven, Styx and Fred, descend to the left. This involves scrambling up to the ridge above the south end of the cliff and following an intermittent trail down to a side valley that leads back to the Heart Creek trail. For routes that end on the north end of the crag (Grovel and Overly Hung) descend treed slopes to the north.

**Stairway To Heaven** 95 m, 5.10a

C. Perry & E. Jones, 1998

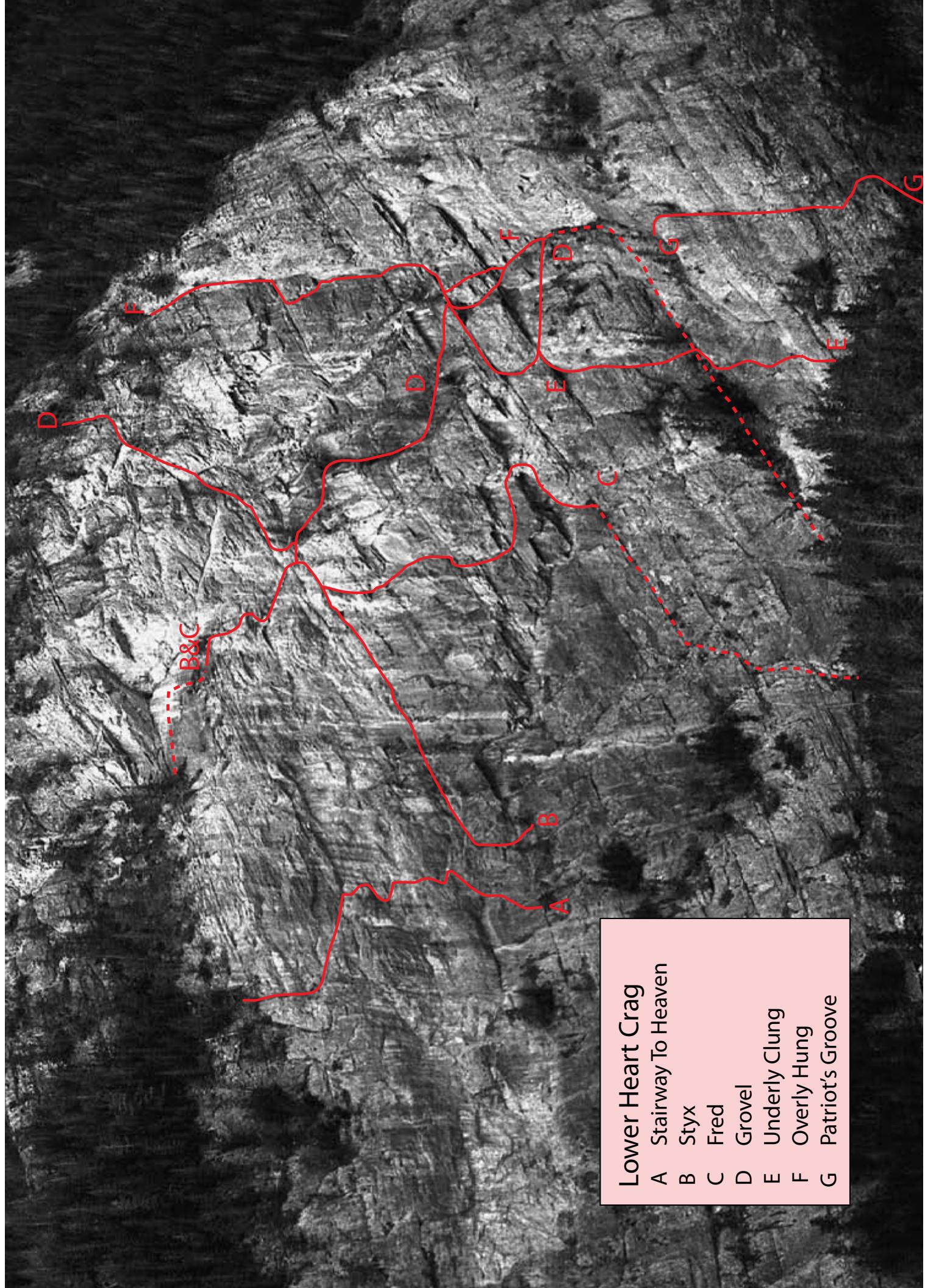
This relatively recent route climbs a faint weakness near the left side of the steep central wall. The main pitch was cleaned and bolted on rappel but the first and third pitches were climbed on-sight and are loose and not well protected. As it stands, the climb needs some additional work and a direct, sport-climbing finish would be worthwhile.

**Start** The climb begins at the top of easy slabs on the left where a lower band of overhangs peters out. The approach is fourth class but quite exposed in one section. Leave the creek bed at the extreme left side of the lower slabs, where the trees begin, and scramble up to a ledge with large trees that angles up to the right. From the extreme right-hand end of the ledge, past a vegetated, left-facing corner, drop down and climb easily up and right (exposed) to small scree ledges. Angle up left to where the lower band of overhangs peters out and then move across left to small trees and a shallow groove directly below a prominent white streak.

- 1) 35 m, 5.6 Climb the groove and move up and right to a corner/ramp that slants right up the wall above. At the top of the ramp, move left and up on easy ground to a fixed piton belay where the wall steepens.
- 2) 20 m, 5.10a Move up to a bolt on the wall above and make some thin moves left to a corner/ramp that slants up right. Follow this up and right to where it ends, then make a long reach up and left over a bulge to gain an amazing hold. Crank up on this (5.10a) and step up to a small ledge. Continue up and left to a fixed belay at a horizontal break.
- 3) 40 m, 5.7 Follow the break easily leftward to a right-facing corner that, after an awkward move to start, leads up to trees.

**Styx\*** 120 m, 5.9

C. Perry, G. Powter & J. Sterner, 1979



Styx follows a rising traverse line across the steep central bowl. It has some good climbing and is well situated but could benefit from extensive cleaning and retrofitting.

Start It begins at the top of easy slabs on the left where the lower overhangs peter out, about 10 m right of the start of Stairway To Heaven. Approach as for that route.

- 1) 40 m, 5.7 Bypass an overhang on the left and climb up to a prominent fault that slants up rightward across the face. Follow the fault on dusty, lichen-covered rock to a bolt belay in a scoop.
- 2) 45 m, 5.8 Follow the fault to a tree ledge below a steep wall (junction with Grovel).
- 3) 35 m, 5.9 Traverse left onto a slab and climb this to a short groove on the left side of an overhang (fixed piton). Swing up right onto a ledge and then make a difficult move over a bulge onto easier rock above. Continue to a belay on a slab.
- 4) Scramble off to the left to gain the south ridge.

Fred 115 m, 5.9

J. Blench & J. Lauchlan, July 1980

Fred climbs directly through large roofs to join Styx near the end of the traverse. The climbing is good except for a dangerously loose pillar near the start. Approach from the left via slabs, and belay in a scoop below a large roof.

- 1) 40 m, 5.9 Traverse up right across a steep slab to a loose pillar that leads to a break in the roof. Gain the slabs above the roof, traverse left and climb a small groove that goes up through the next band of overhangs. Belay on small ledges.
- 2) 40 m, 5.9 Climb a groove line that leads up and slightly left to join pitch 2 of Styx. Continue along the fault to a big tree ledge below a steep wall (junction with Grovel).
- 3) 35 m, 5.9 Traverse left onto a slab and climb this to a short groove on the left side of an overhang (fixed piton). Swing up right onto a ledge and then make a difficult move over a bulge onto easier rock above. Continue to a belay on a slab.
- 4) Scramble off to the left to gain the south ridge.

Grovel 175 m, 5.6

N. Helliwell & C. Perry, 1978

Follow easy treed ledges from the streambed up right to a belay below large overhangs and the prominent, upper corner.

- 1) 45 m Traverse left across a slab past an old bolt to a break in the lower roofs. Climb a groove to a higher roof, then traverse up right to a large tree.
- 2-3) 60 m Follow broken ground up left to a tree ledge below a steep wall.
- 4) 45 m Gain a ledge that slants up across the wall to the right. Follow this to a groove and corner system, exiting right to easy ground.
- 5) 25 m Scramble to the top.

Overly Hung\*\* 105 m, 5.9 or 5.10a

M. Whalen & W. Faryna, August 1978

Overly Hung follows the prominent left-facing corner in the upper section of the face at the north end. It is currently the best route on the cliff, the rock in the upper corner being particularly good. Start as for Grovel, about 5 m below the roofs.

- 1) 30 m, 5.10a Climb the corner to the roof and make a few difficult moves up and to the left to gain a scoop above the overhangs. Climb the wall above to a tree belay.
- 1 alt.) 30 m, 5.9 Traverse a short distance left under the roof and climb an easier break to the tree belay.
- 2) 30 m, 5.9 Drop down and traverse right for 5 m to a short overhanging crack. A few awkward moves lead to a ledge on the right at the base of the upper corner. Climb the slabby left wall past a bolt to a bolt belay in the corner just below a small roof.
- 2 alt.) 30 m, 5.10 Step up and traverse right across an overhanging wall to gain the ledge above the crack.
- 3) 45 m, 5.8 Climb up past the roof on the left, following a crack in a corner to an obvious traverse line. Traverse right into the main corner and follow it to the top.

### Underly Clung 80 m, 5.10b

G. Fletcher & T. Jones, August 1999

Underly Clung climbs a slabby pitch below the easy break leading up and right from the creekbed to the start of Grovel and Overly Hung. It then climbs a slanting, left-facing corner to a fixed belay on the easy first pitch of Grovel. The first pitch has fixed protection and can be climbed as a sport route, but the second pitch requires small/medium gear.

Start The climb begins about 30 m right of the lower end of the easy break, beyond a clump of trees, and immediately right of a prominent, rounded scree pile. There is an obvious break in the rotten, diagonal overhangs above and a bolt visible on the wall a few metres to the right.

- 1) 40 m, 5.9 Move up a small ramp from the right and clip the bolt, climb over the bulge, and go up past a fixed piton and a bolt to a small tree on a diagonal break. Climb the slab past four bolts, moving right after the second bolt, and go up to a large tree on the easy approach ramp for Overly Hung.
- 2) 40 m, 5.10b Climb the left-facing corner behind the tree, staying on the slab until higher up when the corner is rejoined below a bolt. Continue up the corner past the bolt, above which difficult moves lead to an exit right onto a ledge and single bolt belay (part way up pitch 1 of Grovel).

Descent is made by reversing the first pitch of Grovel (5.3) to a tree at the start of that route, below the roofs of Overly Hung.

## North Wing

Located at the north end of Lower Heart Crag is a smaller, triangular buttress separated from the main face by the easy approach gully of Grovel and Overly Hung. The North Wing has suspect rock but like Lower Heart Crag, could possibly become a pleasant cliff with cleaning and bolting. The four established climbs are obscure and rarely climbed today. They all share the same start.

### Descent

Climb down left to the gully below Overly Hung and continue down on ledges and slabs to the creek.

#### Patriot's Groove 60 m, 5.7

J. Martin, C. Perry & M. Talbot, April 1980

On the left side of the buttress is an obvious open groove that begins about 18 m above the ground and joins the sloping left edge of the buttress at about half height. Start below and slightly to the right of the groove at a break in the lower overhangs just right of an overhanging prow. The initial section is a little loose, but higher up the rock improves.

- 1) 40 m, 5.7 Climb a broken face to a steep section and then traverse up right on a ramp a short distance until it is possible to make a few moves up to easy ground. Move left and up to a bulge at the base of the groove. Climb the bulge and the groove above to a small stance in a scoop.
- 2) 20 m, 5.6 Continue up the groove and where it splits follow the right branch a short distance to easy ground.

#### Heartbeat 60 m, 5.8

J. Martin & L. Howard, June 1986

This is a nice face climb on the wall left of Patriot's Groove.

- 1) 30 m, 5.6 Start as for Patriot's Groove and after about 12 m traverse left to a big ledge with trees.
- 2) 30 m, 5.8 Starting behind the rightmost tree, work right up a slanting break to a thin flake crack. Climb this to a sloping ramp. Move up and right on the ramp and then climb up past a bolt to the top.

#### Heartland 80 m, 5.8

W. Lee & J. Martin, June 1983

Initially, the route takes the same line as Patriot's Groove, but soon swings right in a slanting traverse to an exit up the wall. Care is required on account of loose rock in a few sections.

- 1) 30 m, 5.6 Climb the first 12 m of Patriot's Groove to an easy-angled area where that route moves left. Slant up to the right on a ramp until it is possible to move right past a rounded edge. Step down to a good ledge with a bolt.
- 2) 25 m, 5.8 Located just above eye level is a faint fault line, masked by a small discontinuous roof, that slants up to the right. Move up to the fault line and follow it rightward, staying below the little roof and passing a small inside corner and pillar, to an obvious horizontal slot about 6-7 m past the pillar. Make an awkward step onto the wall above, avoiding a small loose block, then work up left a few moves. Step up right and climb straight up to a big tree on a ledge.
- 3) 25 m, 5.6 Climb a short slanting corner to easier ground and continue up to a big ledge with trees.

Heart of the Patriot 90 m, 5.7

J. Martin & R. MacLachlan, August 1981

This route climbs the first pitch of Heartland and then traverses farther right and lower to an exit groove.

- 1) 30 m, 5.6 Climb the first 12 m of Patriot's Groove to an easy-angled area where that route moves left. Slant up to the right on a ramp until it is possible to move right past a rounded edge. Step down to a good ledge with a bolt. (Pitch 1 of Heartland.)
- 2) 35 m, 5.7 Traverse right past a short corner and onto a steep wall. Work right and slightly up to sloping ledges below a bulge, then go right to a faint groove that splits the bulge. Climb the groove, then go past two small trees and continue up a short wall to a good tree.
- 3) 25 m, 5.6 Climb the groove directly above to easy ground. Continue up left to a good tree.

# HEART SLAB

Heart Slab is a pleasant and sunny climbing area on the lower west slopes of Heart Mountain. The slabs are formed by exposed bedding planes of limestone tilted at about 55 degrees. A prominent feature, near the centre, is a smooth, roughly circular slab that starts at a treed ledge about 20 m above the ground and is bounded at the top and left by a long curving overlap. The rock in this area is exceptionally good and gives a number of outstanding one pitch slab climbs, second only to those on Burstall Slabs (see Sport Climbs guidebook). Small pitons, wired nuts and cams are useful, except on the smooth central slab where the protection is mainly from fixed pitons and bolts. Many of the climbs are very run-out by modern standards and extreme caution is necessary. Some of the fixed pitons cannot be relied upon and in the future may be replaced by bolts.

The cliff is described in three sections, Heart Slab Left, the Central Slab and Heart Slab Right. There is a small sport climbing area at the right end, reached first by the approach trail, that is used primarily for teaching purposes.

## Approach

Continue up the valley past Lower Heart Crag until a cliff band is reached where the creek emerges from a small canyon (Waterfall Wall—see Sport Climbs guidebook). Heart Slab is then visible high up on the hillside to the left (east). Cross the creek and locate a trail that starts about 25 m downstream from the cliff band. Follow the trail up through woods to a ridge, turn left along the ridge and climb the hillside to the south end of the slabs.

## Descent

Descent is normally by rappel, either from trees or from one of two anchors at the top of the central slab. Alternatively, it is possible (but tedious) to walk off to the south after ascending through trees.

### Heart Slab Left

This is the longest part of the slab and to date has only a few routes.

#### Mix-Up 115 m, 5.8

J. McIsaac & D. McNeil, 1979

Start on the slab left of the obvious gully (North Gully).

- 1) 10 m, 5.6 Climb a short pitch to two trees on a ledge.
- 2) 50 m, 5.8 After making a couple of tricky moves above the trees, work up and right to reach a ledge. The steep top part of the slab is crossed diagonally.
- 3) 10 m, 5.0 Move the belay right to a large ledge.
- 4) 45 m, 5.7 Climb moderate rock to the left to a layback flake. From the top of the flake move up and right to a short steep crack that leads to trees.

#### North Slab 125 m, 5.8

U. Kallen & R. Mitchell, 1978  
L. Howard & J. Martin, 1981

This climb combines the best features of two routes with a common start that were climbed on separate occasions. Start below North Gully.

- 1) 50 m, 5.7 Climb the slab to the base of the gully, then move left into a shallow right-facing corner that trends left. Follow this to a ledge (junction with Mix-Up).
- 2) 40 m, 5.5 Climb the bulge above on the left, then step right and climb an unprotected, pockmarked slab to a tree. An easier alternative is to climb the corner on the left.
- 3) 35 m, 5.8 Traverse right to the exit of Mix-Up to finish the climb.

Trident 45 m, 5.9

J. Martin & R. MacLachlan, August 1981

The start of this route, on a small tree ledge, is gained by scrambling up and left from the ledge below the central slab. It would be possible to also reach the route from the rightmost part of Mix-Up. Once at the base of the route, climb up and then trend right to a bulge. Pull over the bulge, then work left and up past the end of a second bulge to a small ledge below three short solution cracks. The cracks provide an entertaining finish up a steep slab.

Alternatively, Slanting Slab (5.7) or Arch Slab (5.7) can be used as more technical approaches. Several of the climbs reach a ledge at the top of the slab on the right, but only Rough Mix continues over the overlap to the top of the cliff. Rappel anchors are in place at the ledge and at the top of Skid Row and a descent can conveniently be made from either point.

## Slanting Slab 50 m, 5.7

J. Martin & L. Howard, August 1981

This climb provides an alternative route to the large treed ledge at the base of the central slab. Start on the slabs to the right of the preceding routes and climb up to a roof near its lowest point, then slant up to the right until it is possible to step over an overlap (loose rock) onto a small ledge leading to trees.

## Arch Slab 30 m, 5.7

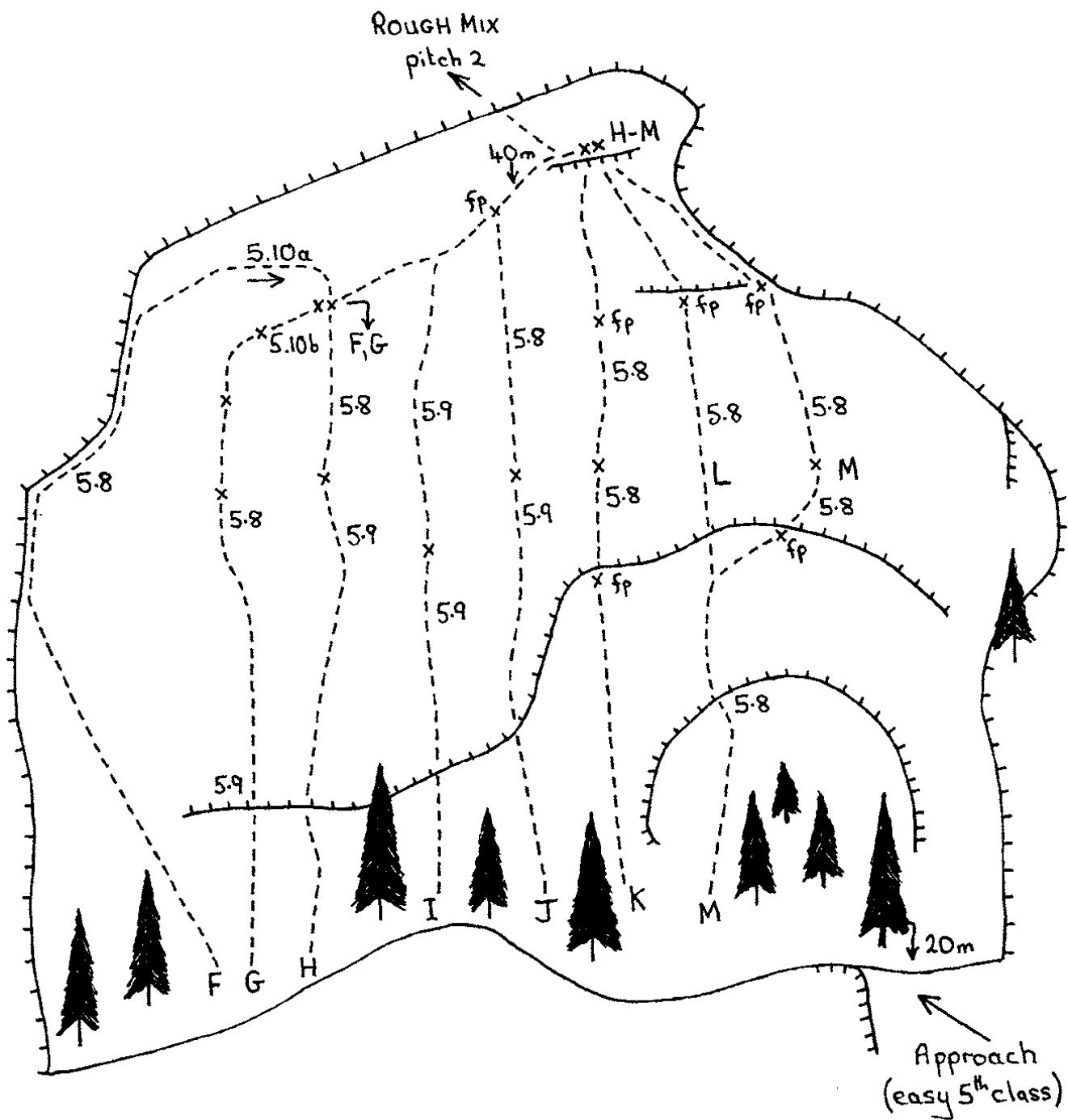
J. Jenkins & C. Perry, 1979

Arch Slab is another alternative route to the ledge below the Central Slab. Starting left of a left-facing corner, slant left up a well-textured slab to the high point of an arching roof. Pull over the overlap and continue to the trees.

## The Hook 45 m, 5.10a

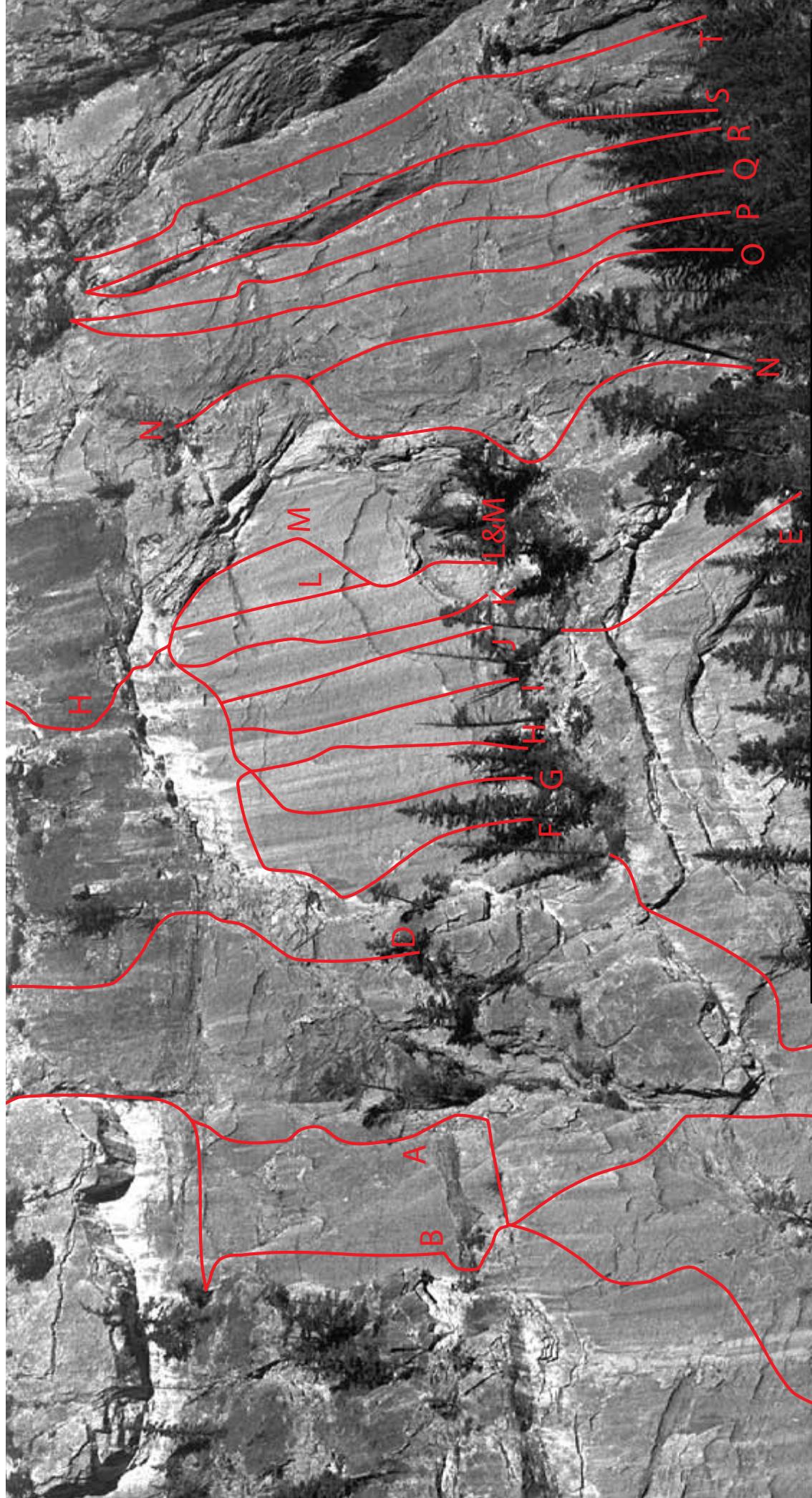
C. Dale & J. Martin, July 1980

The Hook climbs the corner on the left side of the Central Slab. Slant left up slabs to gain



## HEART SLAB—CENTRAL

F The Hook	5.10a
G Skid Row*	5.10b
H Rough Mix**	5.9
I White Line Special	5.9
J A Touch Soft	5.9
K Soft Touch**	5.8
L Bad Habits	5.8
M Original Sin*	5.8



the corner above the loose lower section. Climb the easily protected corner until it becomes necessary to traverse right. Move right and slightly up across the slab, which is difficult and unprotected, to a point about 1 m above double bolts. A piquant moment now occurs in descending to these bolts.

**Skid Row\*** 30 m, 5.10b

J. Martin & L. Howard, June 1982

Skid Row tours the steepest part of the slab and is well protected at its crux section. Climb the bottom overlap just left of the faint ripple that marks the line of Rough Mix, continue past a small flake, and then work up and slightly left to a tiny scoop (bolt). Climb up and then right past two more bolts to a double bolt belay.

**Rough Mix\*\*** 70 m, 5.9

B. Keller, M. Sawyer & C. Perry, 1978

The first pitch of this climb, which starts at a faint, right-slanting ripple, is a classic friction test-piece. The crux is unprotected and occurs just before the first bolt, some 20 m off the ledge. The moves over the overlap on the second pitch are also interesting.

- 1) 45 m, 5.9 Step over an overlap to gain the base of the ripple and follow it until it begins to fade out, not far from the first bolt. Move left and then up to the bolt. Continue up to a second bolt (doubled) and then make a rising traverse past a fixed piton in a small corner to the ledge at the top of the slab.
- 2) 25 m, 5.8 Traverse horizontally left, and then move up and back right slightly to reach the start of a thin crack that slants up left through the overlap (piton). Climb the crack past a second piton and make a strenuous pull up to gain the easy slabs above. Move up left into a corner and either belay at a tree on the left arete or traverse up right to a larger tree.

**White Line Special** 45 m, 5.9

C. Dale, L. Howard & J. Martin, July 1980

This sustained and poorly protected route follows a pale streak to the right of Rough Mix. Follow the streak to a bolt, then continue up to the top traverse of Rough Mix (no protection), finishing as for that route.

**A Touch Soft** 40 m, 5.9

J. Martin, L. Howard, C. Perry, M. White, J. Jones & W. Rennie, 1978-1986

The line described here is a combination of three climbs done on separate occasions. Climb up left of a small right-facing corner and make thin, run-out moves to a bolt. Continue up a line of small holds to the fixed piton near the top of pitch 1 of Rough Mix. Climb up and right to the belay ledge.

**Soft Touch\*\*** 40 m, 5.8

C. Perry & M. White, July 1978

J. Martin & L. Howard, June 1980

Soft Touch, the most popular climb at Heart Slab, starts below a faint groove just left of a broken,

right-facing corner. As described, it comprises the original start Soft Touch and the original finish of A Touch Soft. Small cams and wired nuts are useful lower down.

Climb the groove to an overlap (fixed piton), move right slightly and then make some awkward moves up to a bolt. Make a couple of thin moves up, step right to flakes and then continue straight up past a dubious fixed piton (soon to be replaced by a bolt) to the belay ledge.

**Bad Habits** 40 m, 5.8

J. Jones, 1986

This climb is essentially a direct finish to Original Sin. Start as for that route, but instead of traversing right, make a long run out straight up a nice slab to a little overlap with a fixed piton. Move up and then trend left to the belay ledge.

**Original Sin\*** 40 m, 5.8

J. Martin, C. Dale & L. Howard, June 1980

This pleasant climb is the best protected of any in the central area. Start just left of some small trees and climb up to a break in the first overlap. Move up left over this and continue to a second overlap (piton). Diagonal up right to a bolt and then climb straight up to the base of a left-facing corner (piton). Move over an overlap and climb a slab, left of the corner, to the top ledge.

## Heart Slab Right

This is an elegant section of slab with a few good routes. Several climbs have been done on the broken slabs and corners to the south (now bolted sport climbs used for teaching purposes).

### Plimsoll Line 65 m, 5.6

N. Helliwell & M. Talbot, 1978

- 1) 45 m, 5.0 Starting directly below the right end of the large ledge, follow a faint, right-trending ramp to its top, and then move up and left on slabs to the ledge. Continue right and up on easy rock to a second ledge with a small tree.
- 2) 20 m, 5.6 Move up and right to a scoop, then climb this trending up and left to a big tree. Watch for loose rock at a bulge near the top.

### Bluebell Way 45 m, 5.6

First ascent unknown

This climb, which starts at a small left-facing corner, often sporting bluebells, provides a more direct approach to the exit of Plimsoll Line. Climb the corner to a ledge, move left and climb an obvious right-facing flake. Above, climb slabs straight up to a piton belay (regular angle) at a small spruce tree on the second pitch of Plimsoll Line.

### Red Slab 75 m, 5.8

D. Reid & A. Sole, 1978

Red Slab starts directly below a small (50 mm) fir tree about 15 m above the ground.

- 1) 50 m, 5.6 Climb an obvious flake system and then continue over slabs to the fir tree. The line above is not compelling; climb more or less straight up the centre of the slab to a piton belay below a bulge.
- 2) 25 m, 5.8 Climb over the bulge and continue up a slab, trending right near the top to a tree.

### White Slab 75 m, 5.9

J. Martin & L. Howard, May 1983

This eliminate line stays midway between Red Slab and The Scoop. Start at an almost blank slab (the crux) immediately right of a peculiar detached flake about 8 m above the ground.

- 1) 45 m, 5.9 Climb the smooth slab and continue up easier rock to a belay ledge (bolt) just left of The Scoop.
- 2) 30 m, 5.8 Continue up the slab to a bulge. Step left and move up over the bulge, then climb straight up to a tree.

### The Scoop\* 65 m, 5.7

C. Perry & S. Climpson, 1978

The Scoop climbs a clean, left-facing corner that begins part way up the cliff. It is an enjoyable route with moderately good protection.

- 1) 30 m, 5.6 Climb up to a faint solution runnel and follow this up to the main corner. Continue up the corner to a bolt belay.
- 2) 35 m, 5.7 Climb the corner, which bulges near the top, and continue up past a ledge to a big tree.

### Black Slab 70 m, 5.7

J. Martin & L. Howard, June 1983

This climb follows the edge of the slab overlooking The Scoop and just right of that route. Start at an easy groove.

- 1) 50 m, 5.7 Climb about 7 m up the groove, step left on to a slab and continue up past a little overlap to gain the rounded edge overlooking The Scoop. Climb the edge, staying left near the top to avoid loose rock, to a belay ledge with a dead tree.
- 2) 20 m, 5.5 Continue up the edge to the top.

### Passing Slab 70 m, 5.7

J. Martin & L. Howard, June 1980

The line of this route can be varied considerably and the crux section, near the bottom, can be avoided by staying to the right.

- 1) 20 m, 5.5 Begin just right of the start of Black Slab and climb a short slab to ledges. Alternatively, scramble up to the ledges from the left or right.
- 2) 50 m, 5.7 Climb up past an overlap located slightly to the left, and then follow the centre of the slab to tree ledges.

# HEART MOUNTAIN

The west side of Heart Mountain has a number of interesting cliff bands, the more accessible of which have been developed as good sport climbing areas. The following route begins high on the mountain and climbs two pitches directly to the summit. Additional pitches could be climbed lower down, possibly making an interesting integral type of climb.

St. Pierres' Summit 95 m, 5.7

S. DeMaio, A. St. Pierre & D. St. Pierre, November 1995

Hike up the summit trail to where it climbs a small step. Follow a faint trail up and right below the step for about 20 minutes to the southwest shoulder of Heart Mountain.

- 1) 40 m, 5.6 Climb a right-facing corner and continue over a steep bulge to a large pine tree.
- 2) 45 m, 5.7 Climb a left-facing corner to its end, then step right onto the face and go up to a ledge. From the left end of the ledge, make a "character-building" step onto a steep wall and pull up over the top. This sequence has 230 degrees of Bow Valley exposure as you are now on the Heart Summit prow. Scramble up to a belay ledge.

# McGILLIVRAY SLABS

The Palliser Formation outcrops on Mount McGillivray in a long line of cliffs punctuated by several buttresses. All the climbs described here lie on McGillivray Slabs, the portion of the cliffs closest to the road. The rock is moderate-angled with occasional steep walls and overhangs, and tends to be friable where it has not been waterworn. The climbing history is not well documented and there is little information to add to that published in the original Bow Valley Rock guidebook. The lines marked on the photograph are approximate.

Nowadays the crag languishes in almost complete obscurity as it has little to recommend it (except perhaps the lack of crowds). The cliffs face north and in many areas are broken by ledges, trees and shattered rock. The aesthetic natural setting is spoilt by highway noise and a panoramic view of the cement plant across Lac des Arcs. There are some interesting sections, however, that may warrant future attention. The large bowl at the upper left end of the crag is steeper and appears to have better waterworn rock than the slabs to the west. The slabs themselves have isolated sections of interesting rock and with modern attitudes toward bolt protection and linked climbing may yield some worthwhile routes.

## Approach

There are two distinct areas on the cliff, each with its own approach. The large bowl at the upper left-hand end of the crag, home to Gollywog, Pythagoras and Pixie, is best reached via a fourth class gully (or through nearby trees) that drains the snowmelt waterfall that cascades over the cliff early in the year. Park either just off the eastbound highway at the entrance to a gravel pit at the base of the gully or across the road in the first pull-out along Lac des Arcs. For climbs farther right, the best approach is via a small trail that leads up to Kahl Crack near the far west end. The trail begins at a break in the prominent road cut, just east of a yellow "95 km/hr" sign. Either park just off the eastbound highway near the sign or about 500 m farther east on the opposite side of the road of the second Lac des Arcs pull-out. The trail climbs steeply up through trees and leads to a series of old gravel roads that zigzags up to a tunnel at the base of the cliff just left of Kahl Crack. This approach takes about 10 minutes. From here, a faint trail leads up left beneath the crag and is best used to access most climbs except Imagination, Tony's Route and perhaps 7-Up. These may be reached directly through the trees from an old road that runs west from the gravel pit up to the rock tunnel.

## Descent

The easiest way off is to walk west along the top of the cliffs and follow an intricate but easy descent down cliff bands on the east side of a gully. Alternatively, from the top of the bowl it is possible to descend exposed ledges on broken cliffs to the east.

**Gollywog** 240 m, 5.7

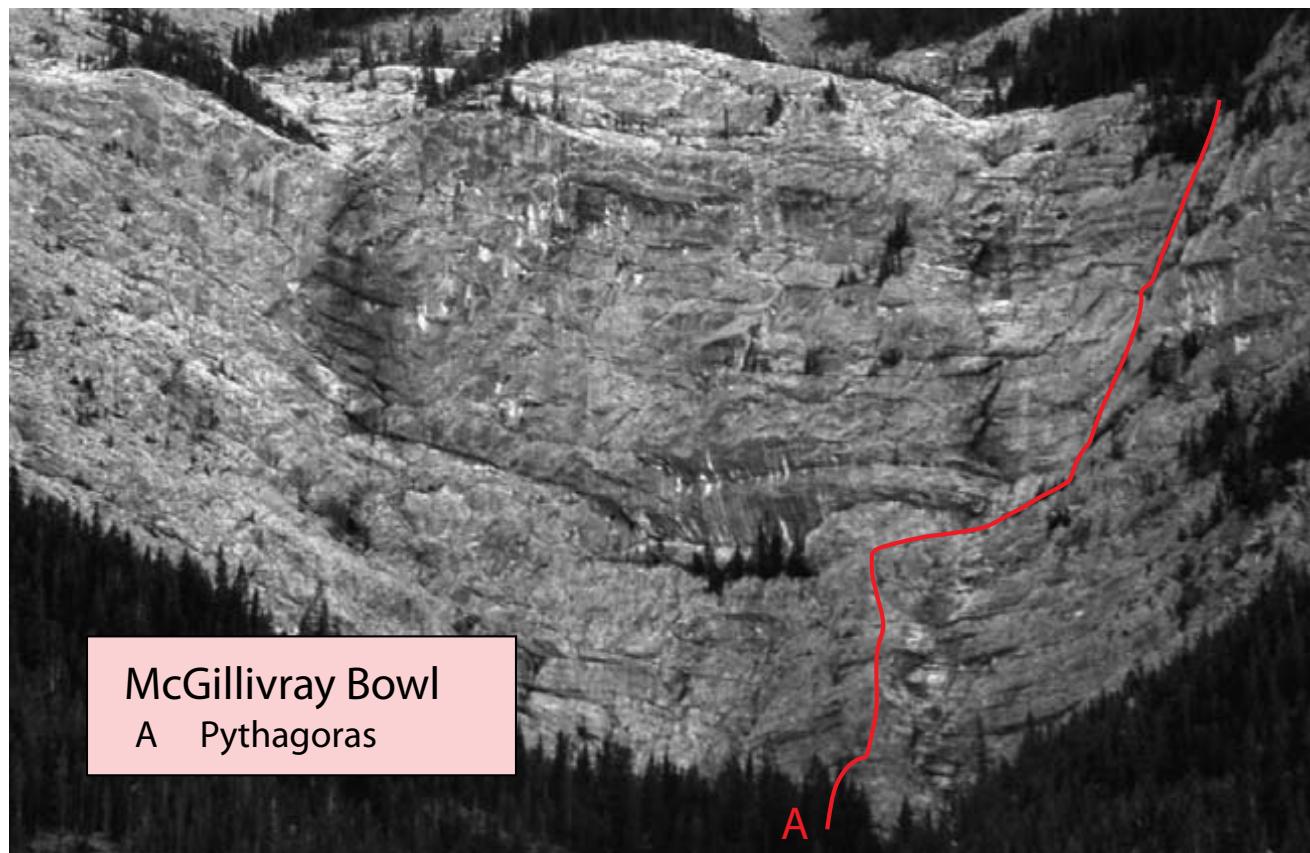
R. Howe & C. Smith, 1971

Gollywog climbs the wall just left of the big waterfall in the bowl at the left end of the slabs. From a large pillar that marks the start of Pythagoras, continue left and go up slabs and grooves for about 60 m to the base of a brown streak level with a large tree-covered ledge and 30 m below a dead tree. A cairn marks the start at a groove.

- 1) 45 m Climb the groove and go up left to a ledge.
- 2) 35 m Climb the slab and groove above, then move left onto a left-slanting slab and belay at a water hole.
- 3) 45 m, 5.6 Climb a smooth runnel on the left and continue up a slab past a large block to a grassy ledge.
- 4) 35 m, 5.7 Continue on grass ledges and go up to the base of an overhanging groove. Climb the groove, then go up a wall a short distance and traverse down left to a tree belay in a shallow cave.
- 5) 35 m, 5.7 Reverse the traverse and go straight up the wall, then trend left up loose rock to belay at three large trees.
- 6) Traverse about 15 m left to the base of a steep wall. It is possible to exit left here.
- 7) 30 m, 5.7 Climb up the wall, making two short leftward traverses, to a small slab. Climb the slab over a block, then continue up left on a slab to the top.

Pythagoras 270 m, 5.7

R. Howe, J. Martin & J. White, 1971



This route has some good climbing and was once quite popular. It is located near the centre of the big bowl, to the right of the waterfall. Begin at a groove on the left side of a large pillar.

- 1) 35 m, 5.6 Climb the groove to a large ledge.
- 2) 20 m, 5.4 Climb the slab above and a short corner.
- 3) 45 m, 5.6 Climb up a few metres, then traverse up right until it is possible to continue over slabs and groove to a ledge.
- 4) 45 m, 5.4 Scramble up left to ledges, then traverse up right along a ledge to two trees.
- 5) 45 m, 5.7 Climb a bulge to the left to gain a crack. Follow the crack to a roof, traverse left and climb a corner to a small pinnacle.
- 6) 30 m, 5.6 Continue up the corner for about 12 m, then traverse left and go over a slab to a big ledge in a bay.
- 7) 50 m, 5.7 From the right side of the bay climb a steep wall on small holds to a short corner. Climb the corner and continue a short distance up the wall above, then traverse right to another corner, which leads to easy ground.

**Variation** A more difficult variation (5.8) climbs the left-hand of two grooves above the first ledge reached on pitch 4, then traverses right to a belay on a small ledge with trees. A step right then leads to the regular route at the corner near the top of pitch 5.

### **Pixie 5.6**

R. Howe & J. Martin, 1971

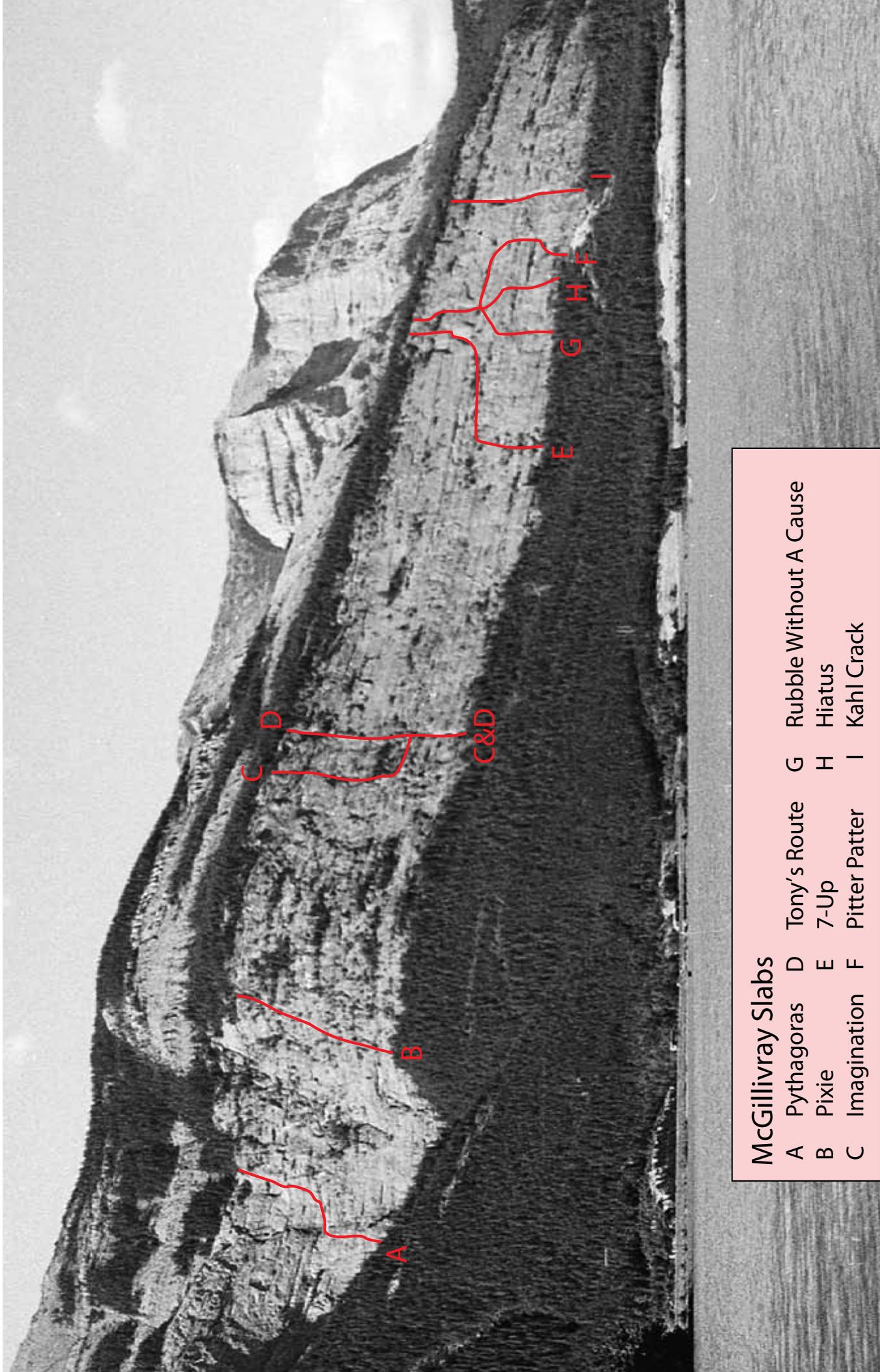
Pixie takes an ill-defined line of corners and grooves up the right side of the waterfall bowl. Many variations are possible. Start at a short corner at the top left edge of the bay of trees extending into the cliffs.

- 1) Climb the corner and slabs above to a ledge.
- 2) Walk left to an obvious corner and climb to its top.
- 3) Climb the corner on the left; near its top move right and up to a ledge.
- 4) Climb a shallow corner to a tree, traverse right, then go up right to a bulge. Slant up left under the bulge to a ledge.
- 5) Continue up a groove and then the wall on the left to a tree ledge.
- 6) Walk 15 m left and climb a broken slab to a tree.
- 7) Climb the slab above to a flake, traverse right to a shallow bay and go up this to easy ground.

### **Imagination 5.7**

J. Martin & G. Rathbone, 1968

Starting in a gully system below a large tree-covered ledge, climb up easily to a steep section.



McGillivray Slabs

A	Pythagoras	D	Tony's Route	G	Rubble Without A Cause
B	Pixie	E	7-Up	H	Hiatus
C	Imagination	F	Pitter Patter	I	Kahl Crack

A	Pythagoras	D	Tony's Route	G	Rubble Without A Cause
B	Pixie	E	7-Up	H	Hiatus
C	Imagination	F	Pitter Patter	I	Kahl Crack

Traverse left under the tree ledge, then climb four slabby pitches that trend left and end below a steep slab capped by a roof. Follow a grassy ledge right until it ends at a small tree, then move up a short distance and make a friction traverse right (5.7) to a corner. Climb the corner to a ledge, then continue past a bulge to a final polished exit groove.

### Tony's Route 5.5

A. Shaw & F. Williamson, 1969

Tony's Route follows a prominent left-facing corner that slants steeply up to the right from the large tree ledge. Start as for Imagination, but instead of traversing left below the tree ledge, continue up until it is possible to traverse left to the base of the upper corner. Follow the corner to the top in several pitches. Steep sections of the corner can usually be avoided to one side or the other.

### 7-Up 5.7

First ascent party unknown

This route takes the line of least resistance to a prominent corner and slab formation near the top of the cliff. Starting near the centre of the cliff, scramble up past trees and short walls to a treed ledge about halfway up, then walk right along the ledge to the base of the corner. Climb the corner (5.7) and, at its top, move right to a belay. Above, follow broken slabs to the top.

### Pitter Patter 5.8

I. Stewart-Patterson & M. Toft, 1982

Start at the first weakness left of Kahl Crack. Climb up past the right end of a long horizontal roof and continue up a broken corner to a belay just below a second long roof. Climb up to the roof, traverse left immediately under it to a weakness and then climb up for 10 m to a belay. Follow easy ground to a tree ledge and walk left to a major right-facing corner. Climb a short wall to reach the corner and continue up this (5.8) to a tree belay. Move easily up to a large ledge, then climb one more pitch past an overhang to the top.

### Rubble Without A Cause 95 m, 5.5

G. Powter & D. Chandler, June 1983

This variation start to Pitter Patter begins left of the prominent upper corner of that route and just right of the final pitches of 7-Up. Follow the base of the cliff up and left from the tunnel near Kahl Crack for about 225 m and scramble up to the highest, easily reached tree island with a shallow corner above.

- 1) 45 m, 5.5 Climb to the top of the corner and then move up and left (poor protection) to a bolt stance beneath a notch in a steep wall.
- 2) 50 m, 5.5 Go up through the notch to a good ledge (a belay here reduces rope drag) and then move up and right across clean slabs to reach the ledge at the base of the upper corner of Pitter Patter.

Continue as for Pitter Patter.

### **Hiatus 70 m, 5.8**

B. Wyvill and G. Powter, June 1985

Hiatus is a second variation start to Pitter Patter. It begins at the left end of a long, horizontal overhang that extends across the lower part of the cliff. Scramble up to ledges below a break that leads up and right to a very short, flared chimney.

- 1) 45 m, 5.8 Climb up through the break to the chimney. Exit right onto slabs and go up to a second overhang 10 m higher. Move left and follow a left-facing corner for 10 m to a stance below an overlap.
- 2) 25 m, 5.7 Move left and climb a slab to the foot of the upper corner.

Continue as for Pitter Patter.

### **Overhang Route 5.7**

B. Davidson & L. Drews

Details of this route are lost. Apparently it follows the first pitch of Pitter Patter and then continues more or less directly to the top.

### **Kahl Crack 200 m, 5.5**

H. Kahl & party, circa 1965

Kahl Crack is a deservedly popular easy climb that follows a prominent groove near the right end of the slabs. Begin more or less directly under the groove and climb over slabby rock to its base. Climb the groove in three pitches and at the top, either climb a bulge directly or outflank it to the right on slabs. Above the groove two more easy pitches lead to the top.

### **Students' Route 5.5**

A. Derbyshire & party, 1980

Starting about 15 m right of Kahl Crack, follow a groove in a slab to a ledge. Walk left to the end of the trees and climb broken slabs for two short pitches to a second tree ledge. Climb an obvious corner in two more pitches to a third tree ledge, then walk right and climb an obvious broken exit pitch.

# PIGEON MOUNTAIN

Pigeon Mountain is located south of the Trans-Canada Highway and immediately west of Mount McGillivray. Its western side is a gradual slope easing into Wind Valley while the northern and eastern aspects present impressive rock formations. Two prominent buttresses on the north side of the mountain provide the only climbing routes established to date. However, the deep valley on the east side of the peak, between it and Mount McGillivray, gives an interesting canyoneering hike equipped within chains, cables, and a ladder and almost 2 km long. Hints of copious amounts of rock can be seen higher up this valley from the highway and from Grotto Canyon. Near the end of the canyon on the left is University Wall, an impressively clean wall of gently overhanging rock 25-30 m high. The easiest looking line at the left end has been bolted, probably by the late Simon Parboosingh, but may not have been successfully red-pointed. This interesting crag is unlikely to yield routes easily and unfortunately is a long walk from the road.

## Approach

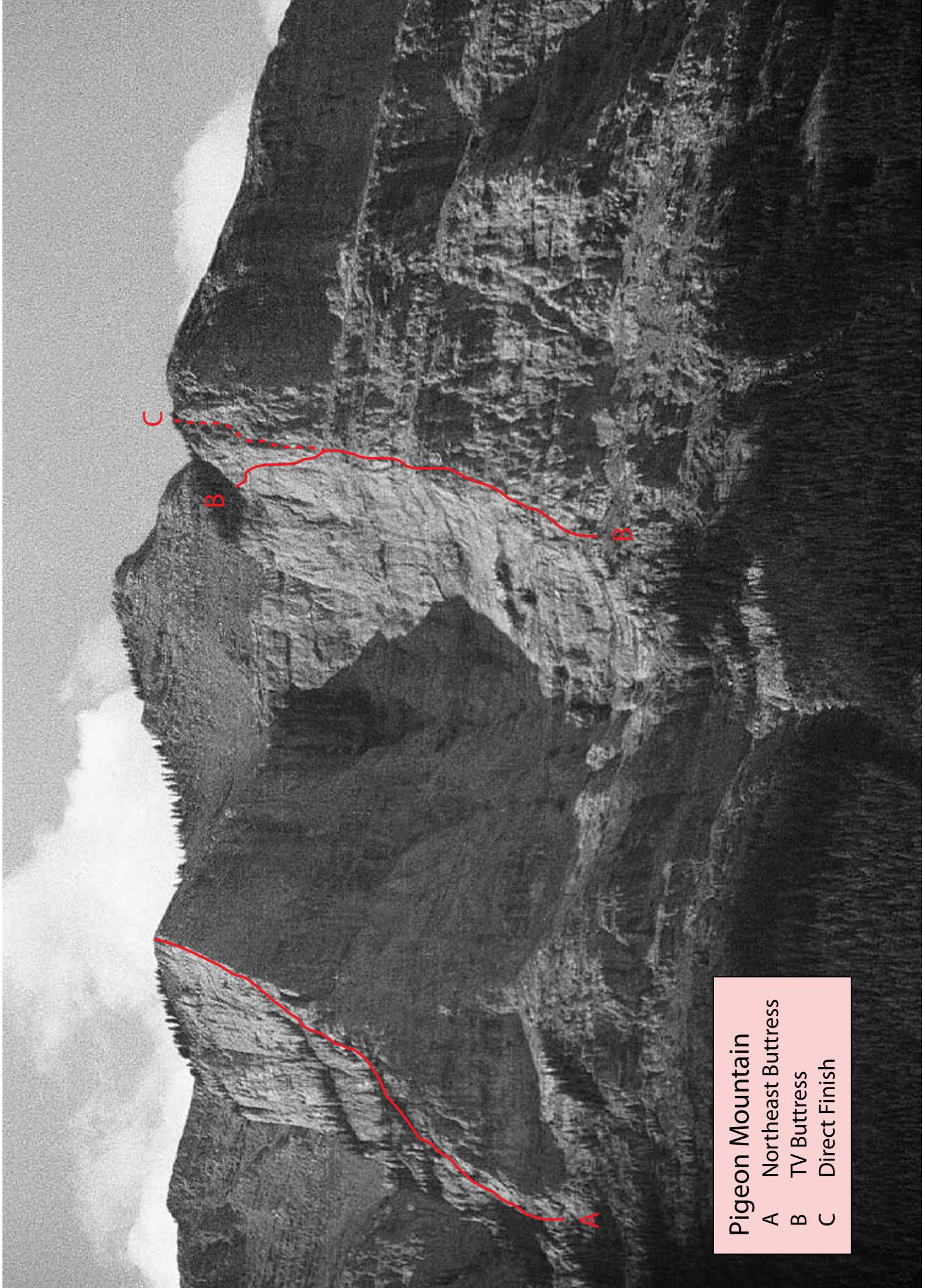
An unmarked, designated parking area on the south side of the highway, 3.6 km east of the Dead Man Flat overpass, provides access to the canyon and the two buttress climbs. From the parking area, head south on an old road for about 200 m directly toward the mouth of the canyon, and at the junction with the Trans Canada Trail, follow the right fork for a short distance before turning south again on a cleared track. After a jog to the right this continues south to the mouth of the canyon.

Access to the two buttresses is probably best made via a gully that cuts down through the trees directly below them. From the mouth of the canyon, climb the opposite bank and angle up left below a cliff band to gain a bench below the gully. Climb the gully that is fairly open but has a few small cliffs bands. At the top of the trees the two buttresses are easily accessible on either side. As descent from the mountain is made to the west, a more diagonal approach may be worthwhile for TV Buttress. Perhaps the best starting point is an old road 3 km west of the overpass, from which a short hike through fairly open trees leads to the Trans Canada Trail, which parallels the highway at this point, and the creekbed just beyond. A diagonal line up through the forest, which generally is not difficult to walk through, leads up steeply to the base of the buttress.

## Descent

Probably the easiest descent is to continue up from the top of the cliffs to the summit of the mountain and then go down the hiking trail on the southwest side. The trail initially heads south and then follows the Skogan Pass cut line west to the trail head parking area near the old ski hill site at Alpine Resort Haven. A more direct descent may be made by heading straight down the fall line from the survey marker farther along the ridge toward the ski hill visible below. A small, blazed trail leads down through the trees to the cleared slopes and hence to Alpine Resort Haven. From here it is almost 5 km back to the canyon parking area.

The descent originally used from the top of TV Buttress involved scrambling down the ramp on the sloping right-hand side of the face to a prominent bowl at the west end. At least one



Pigeon Mountain  
A Northeast Buttress  
B TV Buttress  
C Direct Finish

rappel was necessary. From here a trail, which improves lower down and is flagged, goes down the east side of the steep, treed water course to reach the highway at a small cliff 1.7 km east of the overpass. Just before the highway the Trans Canada Trail is crossed at a bridge over the creekbed.

### Northeast Buttress 410 m, 5.7

G. Crocker & H. Gude, 1967

F.F.A.: N. Preshaw & R. Preshaw, 1989

This is the razor-sharp ridge on the left that stands so proud when seen from the Trans-Canada or 1A highways. It was originally climbed using a small amount of aid near the top, but has since been done free. Much of the climbing is easy and despite the attractiveness of the line, its circuitous approach and descent give it very limited appeal.

Start The route starts on some tree-covered slabs directly below the crest of the buttress as it emerges from the forest.

- 1) 40 m, 5.4 Climb up and belay at a convenient spruce tree.
- 2) 35 m, 5.4 Cross over to the right side of the buttress crest and go up a sloping ramp to a piton where the ramp steepens.
- 3) 45 m, 5.6 Climb a short wall to the left and regain the crest. Continue up easy slabs to a grassy ledge.
- 4) 55 m, 4th Scramble through some trees.
- 5) 45 m, 5.4 Continue up staying near the crest to a large ledge.
- 6) 40 m, 5.4 Climb a series of ledges to a loose belay.
- 7) 45 m, 5.5 Go up the ridge and over a loose pinnacle to a grassy ledge.
- 8) 40 m, 5.5 Climb the wall directly above and meander up the ridge to a ledge with a small tree.
- 9) 25 m, 5.6 Climb up slabs to a small, exposed ledge on the crest of the buttress (hidden piton 2 m higher). The aid crack used on the first ascent is visible 10 m left of the buttress crest.
- 10) 40 m, 5.7 Climb directly up the crest to an overhang (piton), move up and left on small holds past a small overhang to another piton (exposed), and then step right and go up a small corner to finish.

### TV Buttress 5.7/5.9

C. Perry & J. Martin, August 1977

Direct Finish: A. Lucuyer & T. Calow, 1997

This is the rounded buttress right of the Northeast Buttress and closer to the road. Like its neighbour, it offers little in the way of good climbing and its uninterrupted view of the industrialized north side of the Bow Valley is less than magnificent.

Third and fourth class climbing leads up the buttress crest to the first steep band, which is detoured on the left. A wide ledge leads back right to a break that is climbed past a few fifth class moves to the base of the steep upper headwall below a crack on the prow of the buttress. Climb up and left for about 25 m to an indistinct groove that leads in two pitches (5.6 and 5.7) to a large ledge. Make a long traverse left to gain the top by an easy break in the steep wall above. Instead of moving left to the indistinct groove, the direct finish climbs up and right to the obvious corner system in the prow of the buttress. This is followed for two short pitches (5.9) directly to the top of the buttress. It is presently quite vegetated and dirty but is a much better line.

# WIND VALLEY

Wind Valley area includes the northwest peak of Mount Lougheed, Windtower and Rimwall. These cliffs are grouped together as they are all accessed from West Wind Pass, a wide, open col between Windtower and Rimwall. In the past, climbs on Windtower and Rimwall have been reached from the Trans-Canada Highway via a tedious 3-4 hour approach up West Wind Creek. However, a trail from the Spray Lakes road up Spurling Creek to West Wind Pass provides a better means of access, being shorter and more convenient for descent from both summits. This applies to all routes on these cliffs including the Northeast Ridge of Windtower.

## Approach

Spurling Creek crosses the Spray Lakes road about 5 km south of the Spray Lakes Ranger Station (at Three Sisters Dam) or about 1.6 km south of the "Driftwood" picnic area and boat launch. Park on the south side of the road just west of Spurling Creek and follow a good trail that begins directly across the road on the west bank of a dry creekbed (not at Spurling Creek itself). The trail stays on the west bank above the creekbed for the lower third of the route and then moves away onto steeper hillsides in the middle and upper sections. At present, some care is necessary in locating the correct trail where it descends a little and crosses small rock slabs and cliff bands in its middle section. West Wind Pass is located between the Windtower and Rimwall climbing areas and can be reached in about one hour.

# MOUNT LOUGHEED

A route called The Warrior climbs the central portion of the north face of Mount Lougheed's northwest peak (the peak that is next to Windtower and prominently in the view from Dead Man Flat). This is not a rockclimber's climb but rather a loose and serious alpine-style climb that is likely to require a bivouac. The route is named in honour of Brian "BJ" Wallace, who lost his life during the penultimate attempt. It is not recommended by the first ascent party but is included here for the sake of completeness.

## Approach

From West Wind Pass, a good trail contours in a southeasterly direction across the back (south) side of Windtower and eventually climbs easy scree slopes to the summit. Follow this trail until it begins to climb directly up the slope and then continue diagonally rightward to the Windtower/Lougheed col. From here there are two options. The first is to follow a goat trail east underneath the face to a flat saddle and then descend for about 150 m to gain a gully system that breaks through the rock band below a rubbly slope at the base of the main face. The rock band is 5.5 on loose rock. The second is to continue up the west ridge of Mount Lougheed to gain the rubble slope beneath the main face at its west end. This option is easier and quicker, but scarier.

## Descent

From the summit, go down and right toward the Spray Lakes Reservoir and find a relatively easy break through some short cliff bands. Continue down a wide easy gully that curves left toward the head of a large drainage on the southwest side of the mountain. Where the major cliffs end on the right, move around the ridge, descend a break in a small cliff band, and make a long traverse right above the tree line back to West Wind Pass. Alternatively, continue down the gully and the scree slopes below into the drainage and follow this out to the Spray Lakes road, reaching it about a kilometre south of Spurling Creek.

### The Warrior 550 m, 5.10a

J. Marshall, S. DeMaio & A. Genereux, September 1988

The climb begins below the summit in an obvious chimney/gully that is the only apparent access to the central portion of the face.

- 1-2) 100 m Climb to the top of the chimney/gully.
- 3) Stay left and climb past a large ledge to a stance.
- 4) 5.10a Climb straight up through overhangs via a notch.
- 5) 50 m Traverse left to a ramp and follow this up right to a single bolt belay.
- 6) 50 m Traverse right along a break. Climb up right to a bolt and continue up to a ledge.
- 7) 50 m Climb up and left to a large terrace.
- 8-9) Traverse for two rope lengths along ledges.
- 10) Climb up for 20 m and then traverse left to below a steep corner.
- 11) Climb to the top of the corner, step right and climb 6 m up another corner (pitons). Traverse left across a steep slab to a second terrace.
- 12) Go right for one pitch to the top of a pedestal.
- 13) Climb up to the top.

# WINDTOWER

Windtower is the sharp rocky peak of Palliser limestone that is prominently visible from the Trans-Canada Highway at Dead Man Flat and is reminiscent of the Bugaboo Spires in appearance, if not quality of rock. It marks the most northwesterly extension of Mount Lougheed and forms the southeast portal of West Wind Pass. Windtower's principal feature of interest is its very steep north face, which is about 450 m high and is divided by an offset gully into two sections. The eastern section is triangular in shape when viewed from the Trans-Canada Highway and is less steep. The western section is particularly impressive and overhangs for most of its height.

## Approach

To reach the base of the northeast face and the northeast ridge from West Wind Pass, move over to the left for about 60-70 m to the northwest side of the pass and then angle down and left on a good game trail to the base of the cliff bands. Follow the trail over to the right and the top of the scree slopes at the head of Wind Valley.

## Descent

The descent from Windtower to West Wind Pass is easy as the back of the mountain is a scree slope. From the summit, head south directly down the slope toward the Spray Lakes Reservoir and then angle over to the right to pick up a good trail that contours over to West Wind Pass.

### Northeast Ridge 5.5

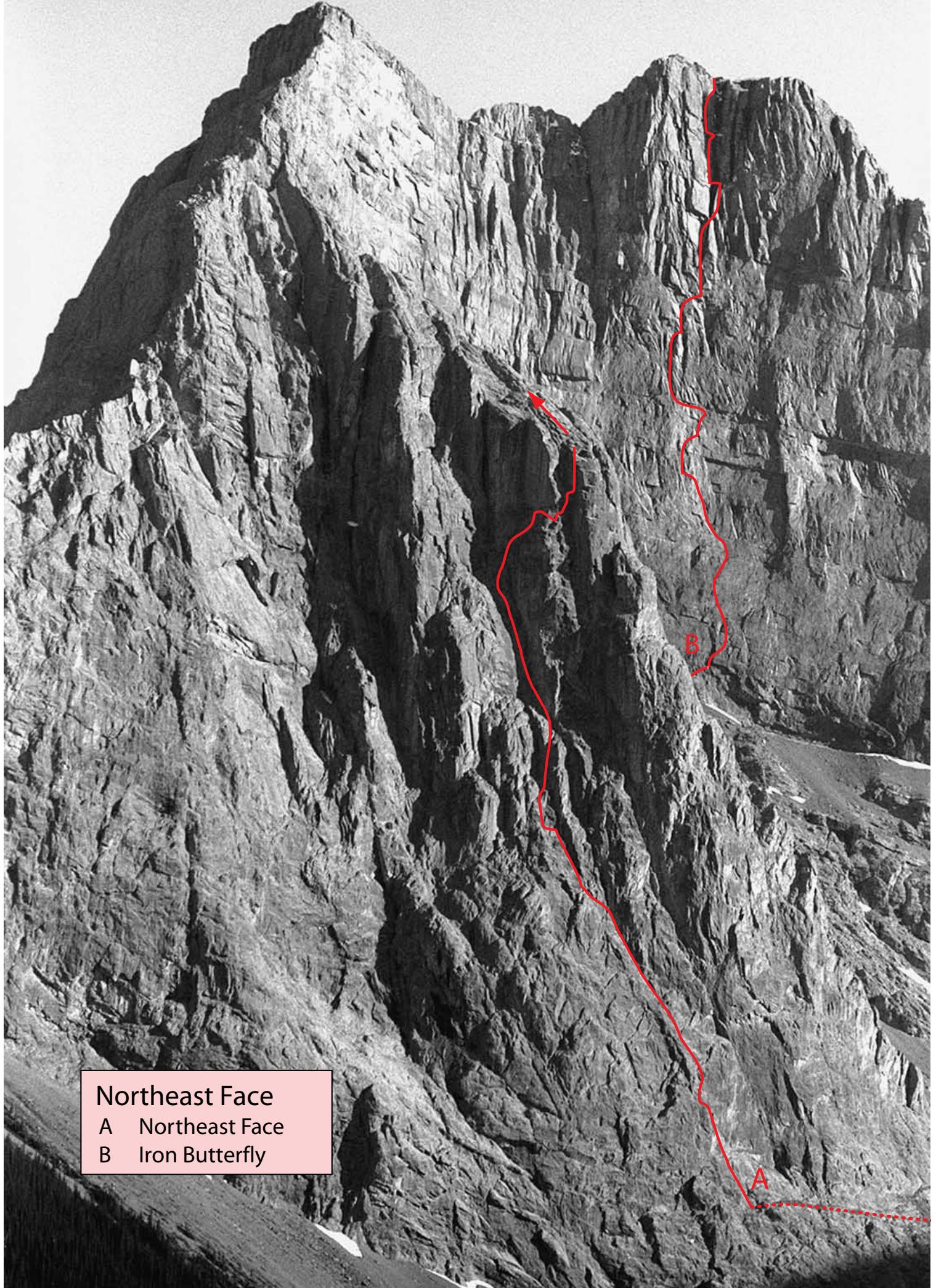
B. Corbeau, G. Crocker & K. Hahn, July 1965

The northeast ridge forms the left (east) margin of the northeast face and when viewed from the Trans-Canada Highway it presents a classic mountaineering line. There are only three pitches of real climbing, however, and almost no good rock. Nonetheless, its classic nature and scenic location make the climb worth doing, if only once.

As noted above, the best approach is from West Wind Pass. After descending cliff bands to the scree slopes, game trails lead east along the base of the northeast face and up to the start of the ridge. The climbing begins some distance higher at the top of a scree slope on the left side of the ridge. Starting on the right side of a gully not far from the ridge, climb up and right past two pitons to the ridge crest. Continue up the ridge on moderate rock to an easy-angled section. Above is a steep step. Climb the left side of the step by a steep gully to gain a small notch in a narrow section of the ridge. Above the notch climb a short steep wall overlooking the north face or a groove on the left to reach easier ground. Continue along the ridge to the summit of Windtower.

### Northeast Face\*\*\* 570 m 5.10a

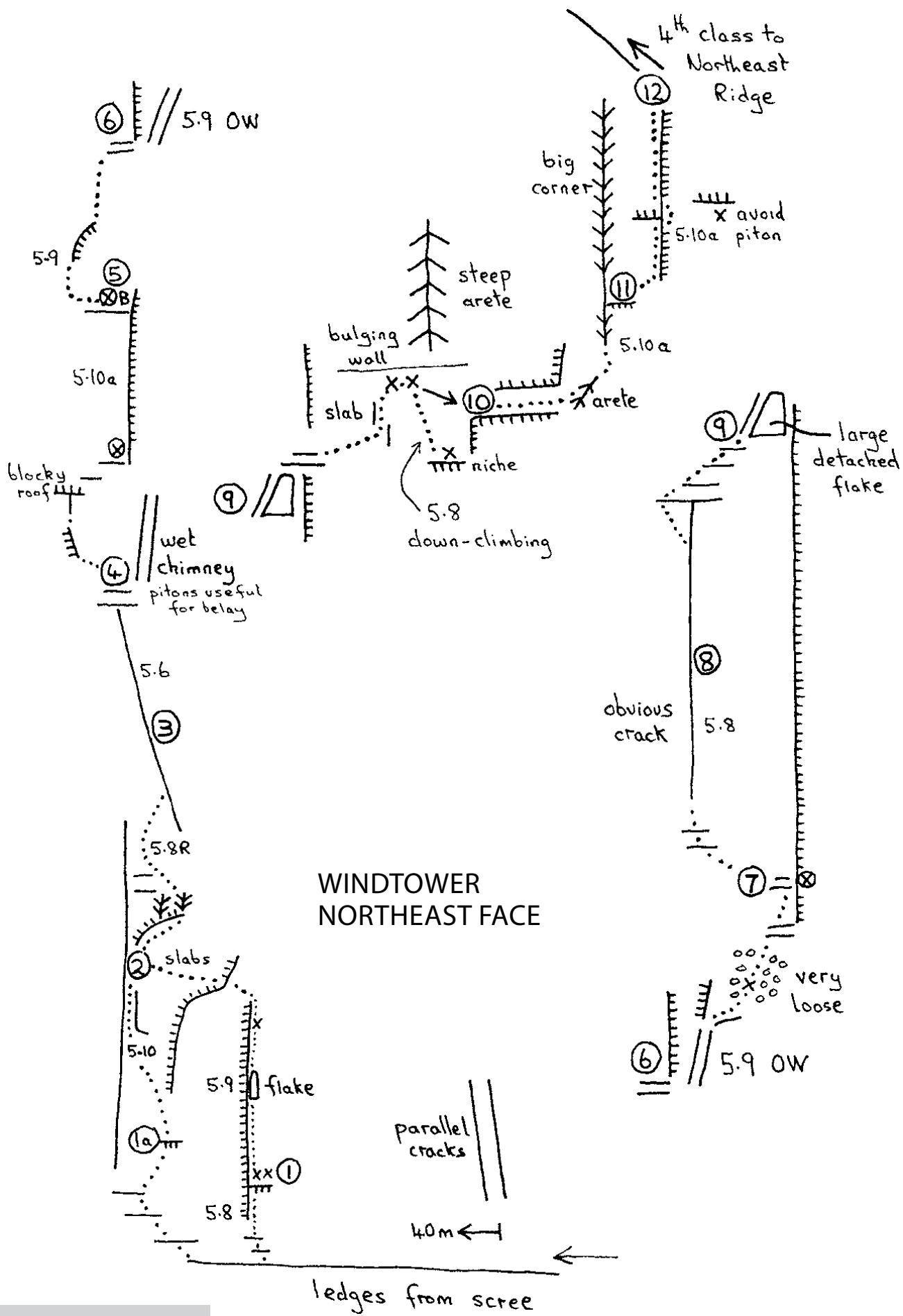
G. Homer & R. Wood, 1972



Northeast Face

A Northeast Face

B Iron Butterfly



F.F.A.: S. Dougherty, J. Sevigny & C. Yonge, June 1987

Take a small selection of pitons and additional larger gear to 3 1/2 inches.

The route climbs a crack system on the right-hand side of the face. It is one of the better long climbs in the Bow Valley with mainly good rock and a lot of interesting climbing. Its length gives it an almost alpine character.

Start To reach the start of the climb, follow game trails down from the northwest side of West Wind Pass and then back east across scree slopes at the head of the valley. Traverse up across a deep scree runnel to the right-hand edge of the face and a long ledge system that leads out left. Follow the scree-covered ledges leftward (exposed) for some distance to the first of three right-facing corners about 40 m past two well-defined, parallel cracks. In the corner there is a prominent loose flake/spike that is just visible above the lower bulges. Be careful to find the correct corner as many parties waste a lot of time getting started. Note that this region of the photograph does not show the climb well and the line marked is tentative.

- 1) 30 m, 5.8 Climb up to a ledge and piton belay on the right at the beginning of the corner.
- 2) 45 m, 5.9 Step left into the corner and move up to the flake. Climb over this and continue on good rock to a small ledge. Move left and follow a short crack up to a roof; step left over this and then traverse left to belay in a corner.
- 1-2 alt.) 5.9/5.10a An alternative start that avoids the dubious flake is to continue to the left end of the ledge system and begin below a shallow right-facing corner (the middle of the three). Move up and belay at the base of the corner (5.7). Climb the corner for 15 m and then follow a crack in the left wall. Move across left to a right-facing corner with a wide crack and go up this to the belay at the top of pitch 2.
- 3) 50 m, 5.8 Move up and right over a small roof to a groove, climb this and then go up and left onto ledges. Continue up and right (run-out) to reach a straight crack and follow this, belaying as high as possible.
- 4) 45-55 m, 5.6 Continue up the crack to a large ledge below a wet chimney. The length of the pitch depends on where the previous belay was taken.
- 5) 55 m, 5.10a Step left into a corner, follow this for a few metres and then move left again over a roof (5.8). Continue up to a bolt at the base of a dihedral (the pitch may be split here). Climb the dihedral with increasing difficulty to a large ledge and bolt belay.
- 6) 45 m, 5.9 Traverse left along the ledge for a few metres and then move up and right on sloping ledges to a flake. Climb up past fixed pitons and then left to ledges. Belay on the highest ledge below an obvious dihedral.
- 7) 50 m, 5.9 Climb a wide crack in the right wall of the dihedral for 10 m, step right and climb extremely loose rock (5.8/5.9) to ledges (piton). Continue up to a bolt belay at a higher ledge.
- 8-9) 115 m, 5.7 Move up and left to an obvious crack in the left wall of the dihedral and follow it for two pitches (various belays) to ledges at the top. Move left to easier ground and then scramble up and right to belay at a large, detached flake.
- 10) 60 m, 5.8 Go up behind the flake to a ledge (no good belays) and continue onto the large

slab on the right to a scoop. Traverse right to an easy groove in the middle of the slab and then move up and right to fixed pitons. Climb down and slightly left for 5 m (5.8) to a niche and belay here or at an exposed ledge a short distance higher on the right. Alternatively, use the rope to lower down and right directly to the exposed ledge. Normally the second and the leader will have to move together, but the first part of the pitch is straightforward.

- 11) 25 m, 5.10a From the lower belay, move up to the ledge and then traverse easily right. Climb a short ramp on the left side of an arete to gain access to a corner. Follow the corner until below an obvious crack to the right of a wet and very uninviting chimney. (This chimney was climbed on the first ascent!)
- 12) 50 m, 5.10a Climb the crack to a roof and then step right onto a ledge. Step back left into the continuation of the crack and go up to easy ground. The remainder of the climb is straightforward but time-consuming. Continue on mainly fourth class terrain to join the Northeast Ridge and then follow that route for several pitches (lower fifth class) to the summit.

### North Buttress 350 m, 5.6/5.9

T. Jones & C. Perry, 1983—via corner variation

F.A.: unknown

This poor route climbs the buttress left of the offset gully that divides the eastern and western sections of the north face. It is worth doing if bad weather or a late start makes the Northeast Face an uncertain proposition. The line described here is that followed on a later ascent that attempted to find at least some interesting rock.

Approach as for the Northeast Face route and continue up to the left side of the buttress. Climb up and right onto the edge of the buttress and continue up (5.6) into an easy gully. Follow this to a low-angled section, then move left and climb a corner crack in two pitches (good rock, 5.9) to slabs. Continue up to the Northeast Ridge and follow this to the summit. Instead of moving left to the corner crack, an easier alternative is to angle up and right following a series of corners to the summit ridge.

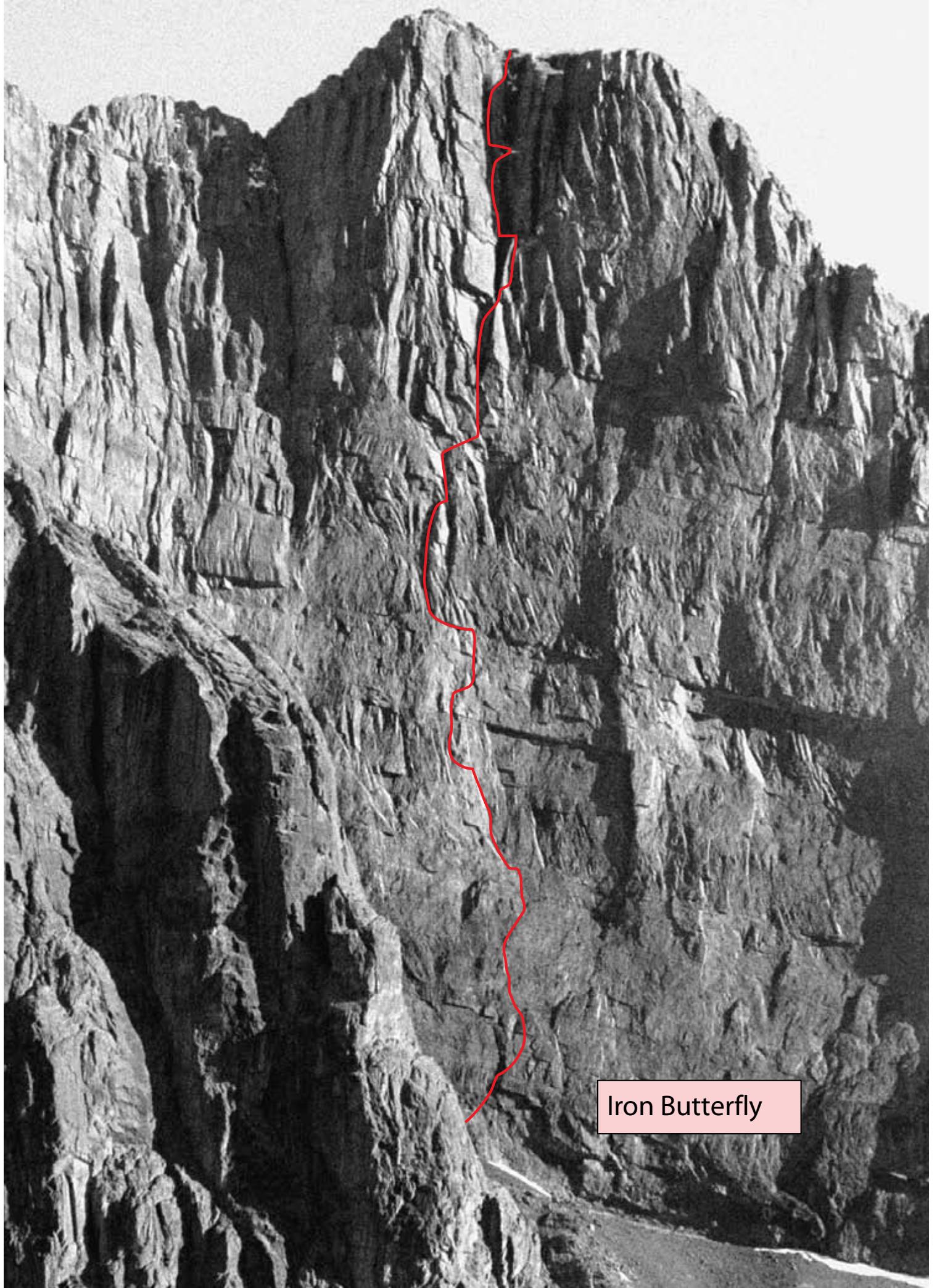
### The Iron Butterfly 425 m, 5.11a, A4

S. DeMaio & J. Marshall, 1988

This unrepeated route climbs the impressive northwest face, ending almost at the summit of the mountain. Many days over several years were spent working on the face during which the team left fixed ropes. Even with these in place, the final ascent took three days and the climb is one of the hardest in the area in terms of overall difficulty and seriousness. It is the only established Grade VI in the valley.

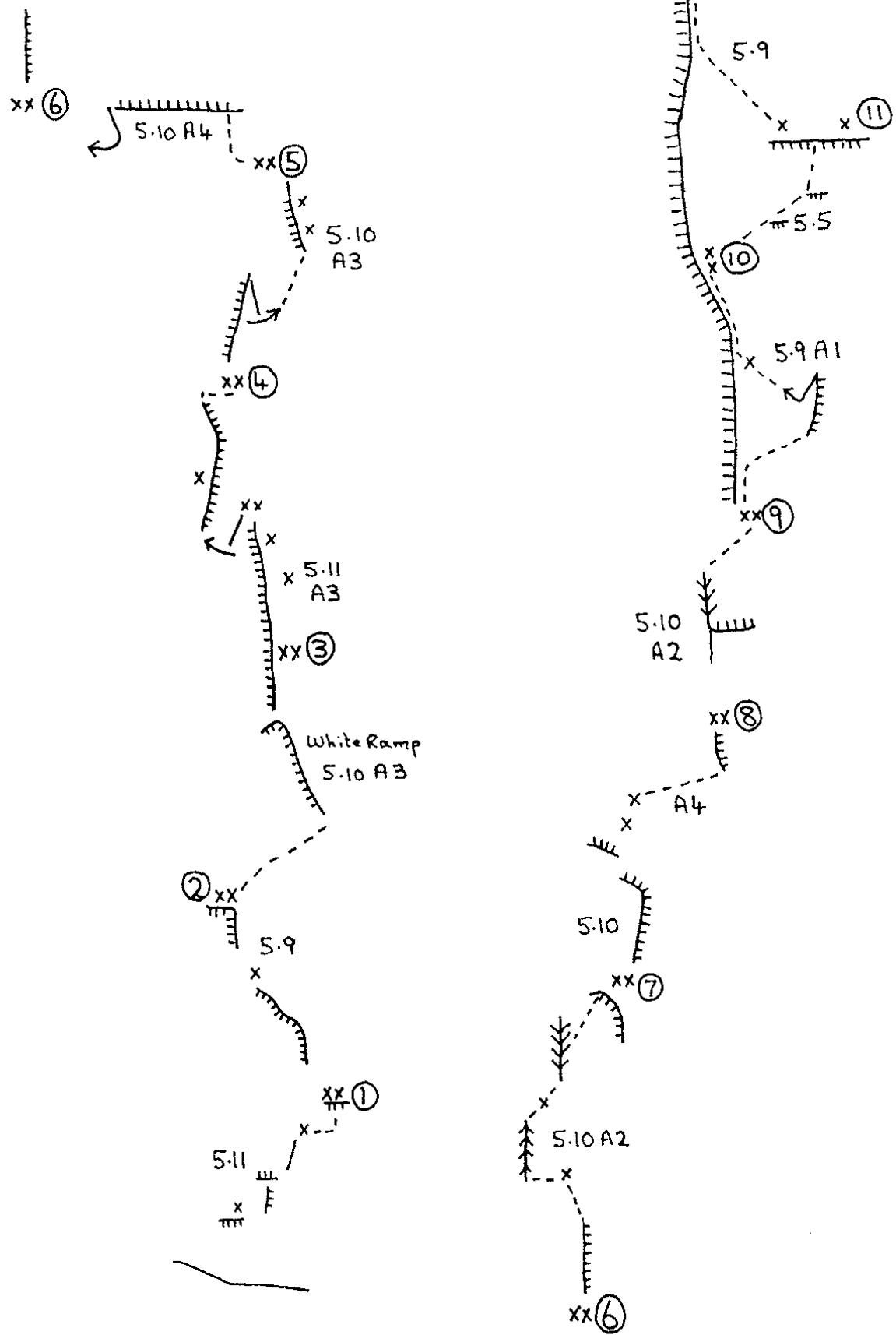
From West Wind Pass, traverse across to the base of the face and continue left to some easy-angled ledges to the right of a large roof and directly below the large summit dihedral.

- 1) 50 m, 5.11a Climb up and right to a small ledge with a bolt (no hanger). Step right into a left-facing corner and climb this past a difficult bulge to a piton and a bolt about 8 m higher. Move right from the bolt and go up a steep wall. Continue up a thin crack in a



Iron Butterfly

# WINTOWER THE IRON BUTTERFLY



corner to a two-bolt belay.

- 2) 5.9 Climb a short, right-facing corner to a ledge system that leads up and left to a bolt. Move left and go straight up to a right-facing corner. Belay at the top of the corner on the left (bolts).
- 3) 45 m, 5.10 A3 Climb a steep wall to a ramp and continue up and right to a corner. Gain the white, left-leaning corner/ramp system above and follow it to a bolt belay.
- 4) 5.11 A3 Free climb up to a bolt and then use aid to gain a small crack on the left. Continue to the second of two further bolts (difficult aid) and pendulum left around an outside edge to another corner system. Climb this to a bolt and then go up an overhanging, flaring dihedral on the left. Move back right at the top to a bolt belay.
- 5) 5.10 A3 Aid up to the top of the corner above and then pendulum right into another corner. Free climb up to a ramp that leads out to the left and aid along this past bolts to a bolt belay in a small alcove (hanging bivouac).
- 6) 30 m, 5.10 A4 Free climb up and left to a long roof. Traverse left under the roof (tricky aid) to a bolt belay below a break.
- 7) 5.10 A2 Climb the corner above, first free and then on aid and continue up and slightly left to a bolt. Down-climb a little and move left to an outside edge. Climb this and then move right to a bolt. Climb up through an overhanging slot into a large corner, go up this for a short distance and then move right to an edge that leads up to a bolt belay.
- 8) 5.10 A4 Climb the slot directly above the belay and continue free climbing up a corner to overhangs. Step left and aid up a crack to two bolts. Traverse up and right (skyhooks, dowels) to a left-facing corner that leads to a two-bolt belay.
- 9) 5.10 A2 Aid up and left under a roof to gain a corner. Climb the corner until it is possible to move right onto a slab. Go up past a bolt to the base of a large corner.
- 10) 5.9 A1 Climb the corner for a few metres and then traverse right around an arete into a small, left-facing corner with a thin crack. Aid up to the top of the crack, tension down and left to a ramp, and then go up to a bolt. Move left and go up the corner to a bolt belay in a niche. Note: It may be better to follow the first corner directly to the bolt.
- 11) 10 m, 5.5 Climb up, then go right over ledges to a bolt belay (second bivouac site).
- 12) 5.9 Move back left into the corner and climb this trending right at the top to a bolt belay just below the top of the cliff.

# RIMWALL

Immediately northwest of West Wind Pass is an unnamed peak of roughly the same elevation as Windtower. The northeast face of this peak, a steep cliff of Palliser limestone about 450 m high, is called Rimwall. Only three climbs have been completed on Rimwall to date, although other possibilities exist. The approach is relatively straightforward and the cliff may be one of the most underdeveloped in the valley. Attempts have been made recently to climb a mixed winter route up a prominent water seepage on the right-hand side of the face and some fixed gear is in place.

## Approach

Traverse across from West Wind Pass (poor trail at present) or use a helicopter from Canmore to land on the open ridge below the prow.

## Descent

Easy scree slopes lead down the back of the mountain to West Wind Pass.

## Pinko 5.8

G. Homer & J. Jones, 1973

Very little is known about this climb. It consists of 10 pitches up a prominent system of corners that leads up and left near the left end of the cliff.



Rimwall from the col.

## The Gambler 575 m, 5.11aR

S. DeMaio, C. Quinn & J. Sevigny, July 1987

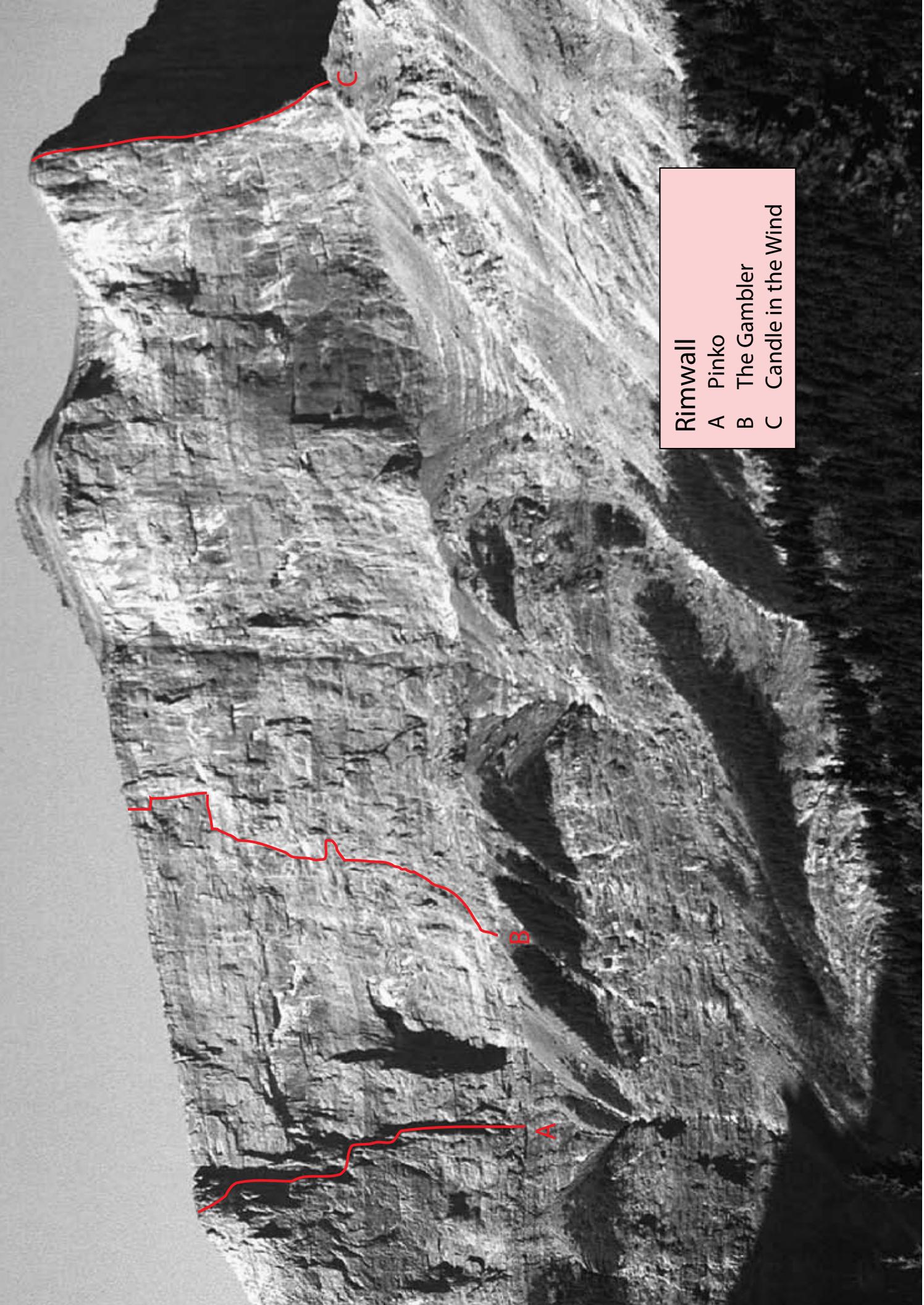
This was the first route to explore the vast walls of compact rock on Rimwall and was completed in a day with the team finishing in a downpour. As a result, the crux eleventh pitch was climbed in a hurry without placing any bolts and is dangerously run-out. The route has probably not been repeated although the climbing is reported to be good.

Start about 200 m right of Pinko, below a system of corners running most of the way up the face. Scramble up to the right of the first corner for about 80 m until below a second corner.

- 1) 50 m, 5.7 Climb the corner and traverse left to belay.
- 2) 45 m, 5.9 Go up into a steep, parallel-sided groove and climb the left wall to a good ledge.
- 3) 40 m, 5.9 Move left and climb a right-facing corner. Continue up a second corner for 5 m and then traverse right onto a large ledge.
- 4) 45 m, 5.9 Move right along the ledge system to a left-facing corner. Climb the corner for 4 m and traverse left on good footholds across the wall to a ledge. Traverse left along the ledge and climb a short off-width. Continue left and then back right to the base of a loose, left-facing corner.
- 5) 40 m, 5.9 From the belay, traverse back down and left and then go up into a left-facing corner. Climb the corner and continue up a second one (large ledge on right, blind left-facing corner on left) until it is possible to traverse right along a break for 10 m to a belay.
- 6) 50 m, 5.10c Climb the corner to a bolt, move up and then traverse left to good holds. Continue up and left along a ramp system into a large left-facing corner. Climb the corner to a good stance.
- 7) 50 m, 5.10 Continue up the corner past a ledge to a second ledge below a left-facing corner.
- 8) 50 m, 5.10 Climb the corner for about 35 m and then traverse right along a break and continue up a second corner to a large ledge. Belay on the right.
- 9-10) 80 m, 5.4 Traverse right along the ledge until below a short, steep crack leading to a ramp.
- 11) 50 m, 5.11a R Climb the crack with difficulty to gain the ramp. Go up the ramp for about 10 m to good nut placements on the right below a steep wall. Make a few moves down and right and then climb the steep wall for 10 m to a resting place. Continue up and right and climb a jam-crack to a ledge.
- 12) 45 m, 5.9 Go up and left to a loose crack. Continue up a ramp system trending left at the top to a ledge.
- 13) 30 m Pull up onto a higher ledge and climb a slab to an overlap. Traverse left along the overlap until it is possible to move up over it and continue to the top.

## Candle in the Wind 450m, 5.10c

A. Derbyshire & J. Visser, August 1992



Rimwall

A Pinko

B The Gambler

C Candle in the Wind

Considering the obvious nature of this line it is surprising it took until 1992 to be climbed. The route is simple—climb the striking prow between the northwest and northeast faces of Rimwall. The rock is reasonably solid and the climbing is sustained when the upper wall is reached.

The most obvious approach is from West Wind Pass and descent is also made in this direction. However, the climb could be accessed via Stewart Creek from the Trans-Canada Highway or possibly using the Boulder Pass approach (see The Orphan).

- 1) 45 m, 5.6 Climb the ridge and pass an overhang on the right. Belay back on the crest.
- 2) 45 m, 5.6 Follow a little corner just right of the ridge and belay on easy ground.
- 3) 45 m Scramble up the remainder of the ridge to a slabby area below the steep upper wall.
- 4) 45 m, 5.4 Climb directly up the slab and belay at the base of the upper wall.
- 5) 45 m, 5.9 Move only slightly left and climb up to an overhang. Surmount the overhang and continue up a crack that includes a short section of off-width near the top. Belay in the corner.
- 6) 35 m, 5.10c Climb up the corner for a few more metres and traverse right into another corner (to avoid some loose blocks). Continue up to a small ledge, then climb a steep wall past two bolts and a fixed piton toward the left of a large prominent overhang. Belay in a corner on a sloping ledge (piton) above the level of the overhang.
- 7) 35 m, 5.10a Continue up the corner over a small overhang to a good ledge on the right.
- 8) 40 m, 5.9 Angle right to a shallow corner and a bolt (after 10 m). Traverse directly right on small footholds to slightly easier ground and then go up trending left to belay ledges.
- 9) 50 m, 5.10a Move right and climb a rather loose, meandering crack stepping right at the top to scree-covered ledges and piton belay.
- 10) 50 m, 5.10a Climb a water groove followed by a mossy crack to ledges.
- 11) 15 m Scramble to the top.

# THREE SISTERS

The Three Sisters are a signature landmark for the Bow Valley and the town of Canmore. They may even compete with Mount Rundle above Banff as the most photographed and painted mountain scene in the Canadian Rockies. Technical rock routes have been done to all three summits, but long approaches and generally poor rock have kept development to a minimum.

## Approach

Three Sisters Resorts owns and is building a number of developments along the mountain front and up Stewart Creek and this complicates access via the two approach routes—Stewart Creek on the eastern side and Three Sisters Creek on the west.

## Via Stewart Creek

This is the preferred access route for all climbs accept the Grassi Route on the First Sister. Park opposite the "Visit Canmore" sign on the Trans-Canada Highway west of Dead Man Flat, climb over the animal control fence (locked gate slightly to the east), and go almost straight across the power line to a flagged trail through the trees. Continue on this for some distance until it intersects a large gravel road (the Mine Haulage Road) and then go left along this to junction #15. Turn right and follow the Stewart Creek exploration road up into the valley. From then on continue up the valley following sections of road and trail. Note that a mountain bike may be used for much of this approach.



The Three Sisters from Canmore. The First (Little) Sister is on the left.

## Via Three Sisters Creek

Probably the easiest way of reaching Three Sisters Creek, which goes underground before it reaches the Trans-Canada Highway, is to hike in directly from the Bow River bridge. Park on the east side of the river, just off the highway, go through a gated fence, and follow a good trail on the bank above the south side of the river. After about 300 m, turn left on a flagged cutline that heads back at an angle almost directly toward the First Sister. Follow it to the new paved road (currently not open to traffic) and continue directly across following the continuation over the Mine Haulage Road to the main power line. Cross this and pick up a good trail that angles right, away from the cutline, toward the valley. Follow the trail until it turns right to cross the nearby creek and continue straight on paralleling an old wood stave pipeline to reach the creek higher up. Cross to the west bank and follow a dirt road to an old concrete dam a short distance higher up. In its lower section, the dirt road diagonals up from the Mine Haulage Road and provides an alternative access route from Canmore through the Threes Sisters development. It leaves the Mine Haulage Road at junction #8, which is clearly marked. This route is readily accessible by mountain bike but is subject to any restrictions that may be in effect (check with the Three Sisters Resorts security staff). Above the concrete dam, follow a trail on the east side of the creek, bearing left at a fork, for about 300 m to where the way is blocked by a small cliff and a waterfall. To access the Grassi Route on the First Sister, turn left and follow a deep, overgrown creekbed directly up the hillside toward the First Sister, which is just visible above. Take the left fork in the drainage higher up and follow game trails on scree to the ridge below the north side of the peak. Perhaps a better way of reaching the upper ridge, but a little harder to find, is to angle up from the trail before it reaches the creek and locate a small game trail that climbs up through reasonably open trees on the right side of a rounded ridge. The ridge is left of the overgrown creekbed noted above, and higher up it opens out and curves around toward the peak. The main trail continues up Three Sisters Creek to Three Sisters Pass and can be used to reach climbs on the Second and Third Sisters (see Kananaskis Country Trail Guide, Volume 1).

## First Sister

The First Sister, aka The Little Sister (elevation 2700 m), is the prominent, blocky peak closest to the Trans-Canada Highway. It is fairly steep on all sides and only two routes have been climbed—the long approach and poor rock quality have kept most new route suitors away. The geology of the peak is interesting. It is composed of Palliser limestone folded in such a way that the strata are horizontal at the lower, northern end but are bent upward past the vertical on the western side. This can be seen on careful examination of the peak from Canmore and is shown on geological maps (see Ben Gadd's book, *The Handbook of the Canadian Rockies*).

## Descent

The normal descent is to the col between the First and Second Sisters. It is now fixed for rappel with one 50 m rope and a minimum of downclimbing. From the summit, walk toward the head of Three Sisters Creek for a short distance to the first rappel station. Sections of easy downclimbing and scree lead down past six more stations directly to the col. To locate the fourth section, scramble up left (east) through a small notch and then down.

### East Face 5.7

A. McKeith & C. Perry, July 1973

The route up this large and complex face follows a generally leftward-trending line with a traverse right at the end. Overall, the climbing is broken and lacks technical interest. Beginning at the left side of a broad, grassy slope beneath the face (easily picked out from the Trans-Canada Highway and reached from Stewart Creek), follow a series of gullies, traverses and steep walls up and left to the base of a huge dihedral in the upper part of the face. The route goes through a small arch in this lower section. From the foot of the dihedral, make an easy traverse down and left into a broad, steep basin with a cave entrance. Climb the slabs of the basin and then the ridge on the left to reach a ledge system. Follow ledges back right to a large notch in the northeast ridge not far from the summit.

### Grassi Route 5.3

L. Grassi, A. Drinnan, M. Geddes and T. Moffat, 1925

This climb was probably the first technical rock climb in the valley. Cursed by bad rock throughout, the only reasons for doing the route are its history and because the peak is so prominently "there." The base of the climb is reached from Three Sisters Creek (see above). The climb begins on the right side of the northeast face, moves to the northwest face and finishes up the northeast ridge. Where the north ridge steepens at a rock buttress, traverse left on to the face overlooking the highway to an obvious crack and gully system. Climb slabs to gain the base of the crack and follow it past an overhang, above which it widens into a gully. The gully leads to a large ledge about 100 m above the base of the crack. Now descend scree-covered ledges to the right to a large gully that forms the general line of ascent on the northwest face. Climb slabby rock to the left to avoid an initial loose section, then continue easily up the gully trending right on broken ground to the northeast ridge. Follow the ridge past a few rock towers to the summit of the mountain.

## Second Sister

The Second Sister, aka The Middle Sister (elevation 2769 m), is a popular scramble from the southeast side via Stewart Creek. Consult Alan Kane's Scrambles in the Canadian Rockies for more information. A well-defined prow faces the First Sister on the north side and this is climbed by two routes that follow the same line for the first three pitches. The North Ridge route uses some aid lower down and finishes up the left side of the ridge, The Ecstasy and the Agony eliminates some of the aid and finishes up a more difficult corner system to the right of the ridge. So far, a completely free ascent of the ridge has not been made.

### Approach

The col between the First and Second Sister can be reached either via Stewart Creek or from Three Sisters Creek on the west side. Both approaches are equally tedious and take 2-3 hours. The former is probably easier and is better for the descent, which is normally made in that direction.

### Descent

Follow the hiking trail east into Stewart Creek. A descent down scree is also easy into Three Sisters Creek.

#### North Ridge 300 m, 5.10a A1

E. Bohren & E. Salzgeber, August 1979

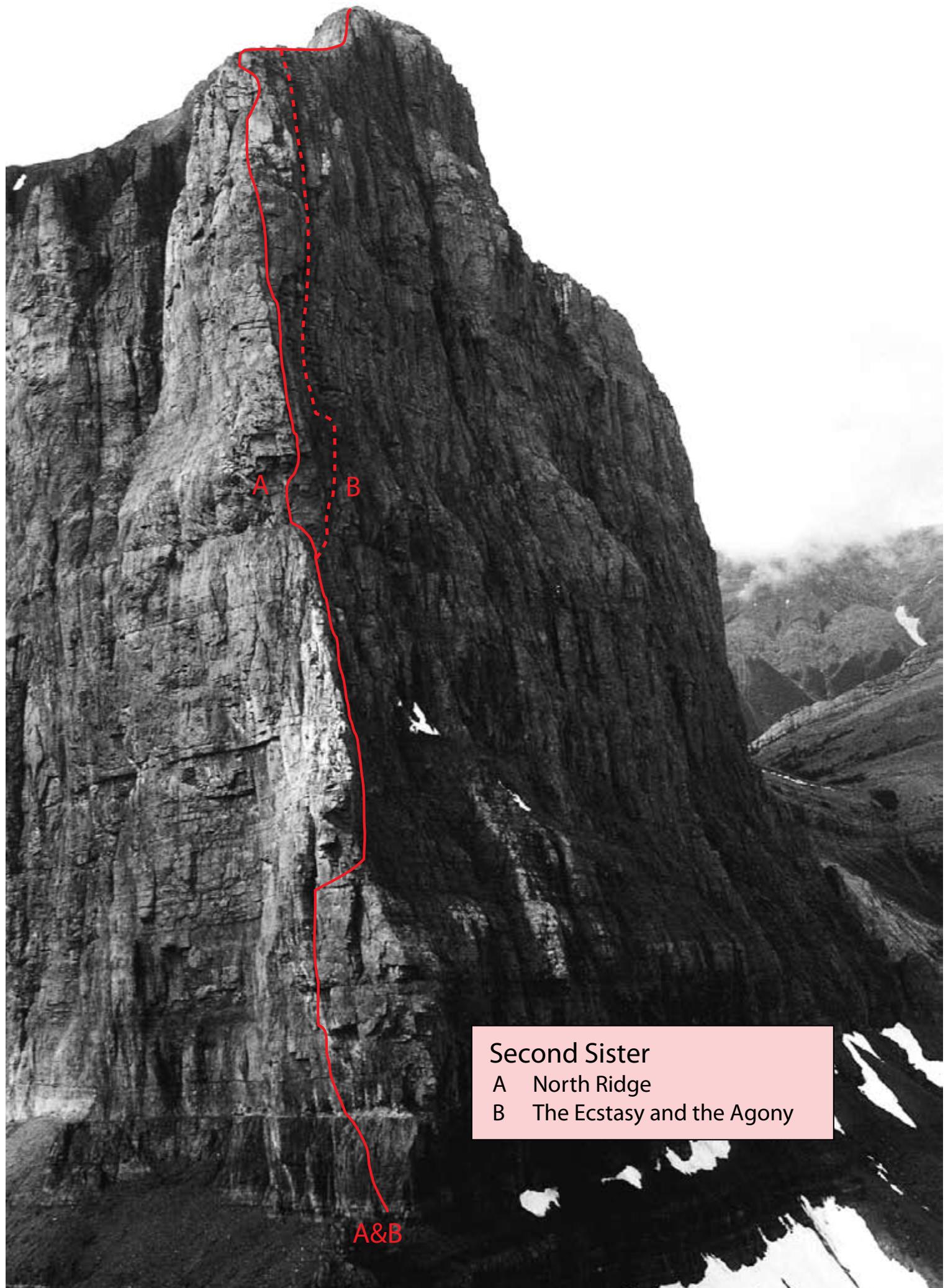
This is the steep ridge that rises from the col between the First and Second Sister. The climb starts on the ridge below an initial steep section.

- 1) 5.10a Climb a steep slabby wall trending left and then move up to a ledge.
- 2) 5.9 A1 Climb a corner to a bulge that is climbed using aid. Continue up to the easier-angled middle section of the ridge.
- 3) Follow the ridge, moving right in places but avoiding the steep north face.
- 4) Continue up the ridge until it becomes difficult and then move left below an overhang to the base of the upper corner.
- 5-9) Climb the corner past a bolt higher up (5.8) moving left at the top to easier ground. Continue up to the summit.

#### The Ecstasy and the Agony 300 m, 5.10a A1

J. Everett & G. Reisenhofer, 1990

- 1-3) 5.10a A1 Climb the first three pitches of the North Ridge.
- 4) Continue up the ridge until it becomes difficult but instead of going left, move right and belay at the bottom of a corner.
- 5) 5.10a Climb the corner (pitons) until nearly at an overhang. Traverse left into a second corner and climb up to a ledge (bolt). Move right and up into a gully. Climb to the top of this and belay at a steep wall.
- 6) Use a few moves of aid to surmount the wall and continue up easier ground.
- 7-10) Continue up the ridge on easy ground to the top.



**Second Sister**

A North Ridge

B The Ecstasy and the Agony

A&B

## Third Sister and Traverse

The Third Sister, aka Big Sister (elevation 2936 m), has a steep ridge on its north side and an interesting scrambling route on its slabby south side. The latter is approached from the Spray Lakes road and is described in Alan Kane's *Scrambles in the Canadian Rockies*. The peak is made of Livingstone Formation limestone, like the upper cliff band on Mount Rundle, and is similarly unappealing. One of the more interesting unclimbed challenges in the Bow Valley is the traverse of all three Sisters via technical rock climbs on their steeper northern sides.

The north ridge can be climbed directly (easy fifth class), but is very loose. A second route called the North Face Route has been climbed slightly to the right of the ridge. It was originally reached from a camp in the upper part of Three Sisters Creek but the hiking route to the summit of the Second Sister, from Stewart Creek, may be a better approach. The obvious descent is down the south side to the Spray Lakes road, but presumably on the first ascent a return was somehow made to the camp in Three Sisters Creek.

### North Face Route

R. Cuthbert & A. Purdey, June 1968

This obscure and probably unrepeated route climbs the steeper north side of the peak. The first ascent was done relatively early in the season with snow on the face and the rock climbing crux was described as "hard" (perhaps 5.7?). The route does not start up the obvious buttress on the crest of the ridge but at a less well-defined one on the right. Begin by climbing a gully (iced up on the first ascent) and continue up to the crest of the ridge that is followed to a large ledge about halfway up the face. Climb a rotten overhang on the wall above and continue past a second overhang for about 10 m to reach easier ground (crux pitch). Follow the ridge until it merges into the face and then move left along a series of ledges to the northeast ridge. Continue up this to the top.

# THE ORPHAN

The Orphan is a descriptive name given to this recent addition of Bow Valley rock climbing formations. Sandwiched between the impressive Rimwall and The Three Sisters, this buttress is often overlooked as the climber's eye wanders to the larger cliffs. From the Trans-Canada Highway it appears as a thumb-like formation sitting on the blunt end of a ridge at the upper east side of the main Stewart Creek drainage. The larger west side is home to a winter waterfall ice climb known as Twisted Sister. The one current rock climb is on the smaller, yet steeper eastern face. This side also has better rock and will likely produce more quality routes.

## Approach

Although the climb faces east and the Trans-Canada Highway, it is best approached from the west via a col known as Boulder Pass. From Canmore, drive south along the Spray Lakes road and park approximately 2.6 km south of the Spray River Ranger Station at an obvious rocky canyon drainage. The drainage is about 0.7 km north of the Driftwood picnic area and boat launch. Hike up the drainage to the pass in 1.5-2 hours and the top of The Orphan appears as a gentle rounded hill to the left. From the pass, descend easy slopes and contour left (north) below the northeast face of The Orphan.

## Descent

From the top, descend easily to the pass.

**Older, But Boulder\*** 300 m, 5.10c

G. Powter & B. Wyvill, July 1998

Older, But Boulder climbs the first obvious left-facing corner as the cliff is approached from Boulder Pass. The more prominent right-facing corner situated farther to the right was the original objective of the first ascent team and one pitch of that line was climbed "before common sense prevailed." (This being the case, the name seems somewhat inappropriate.)

- 1) 100 m, easy 5th Scramble up slabs to the base of the corner proper.
- 2) 50 m, 5.10a Follow the corner and the walls to either side on generally good rock to a ledge.
- 3) 50 m, 5.10b Continue in the corner with good face climbing to the right for most of the pitch and then thrutch up a steep crack to a belay in the corner.
- 4) 50 m, 5.10c Step left and then move up and back right into the corner. Follow this to a constricted stance where it widens into a chimney.
- 5) 50 m, 5.7 Continue up the corner to its top and then go straight up to the summit.

# SHIP'S PROW

Ship's Prow is the very prominent, sharp buttress between The Three Sisters and Ha Ling Peak. It has a large, steep face on its northwest side and is about 450 m high. To date, only two routes have been climbed, one on the prow itself and a more recent line on the northwest face. The quality of the rock in the lower section of both climbs is poor but improves considerably higher up. The "headwall" section of the prow has some of the best rock in the area, although admittedly 1000 m above the road!

## Access

There is no easy approach to Ship's Prow, other than by helicopter, and the three alternatives described below all take 2-3 hours. Two of these reach the face via a long, wooded ridge that juts out in a northeasterly direction from beneath the prow. The east side of the ridge is fairly open and can be reached via Three Sisters Creek or from the Peaks of Grassi subdivision of Canmore. The former is easier but requires access through the Three Sisters Resorts development. This is currently in an active phase of construction and permitted routes are subject to change.

### Approach #1—from Peaks of Grassi

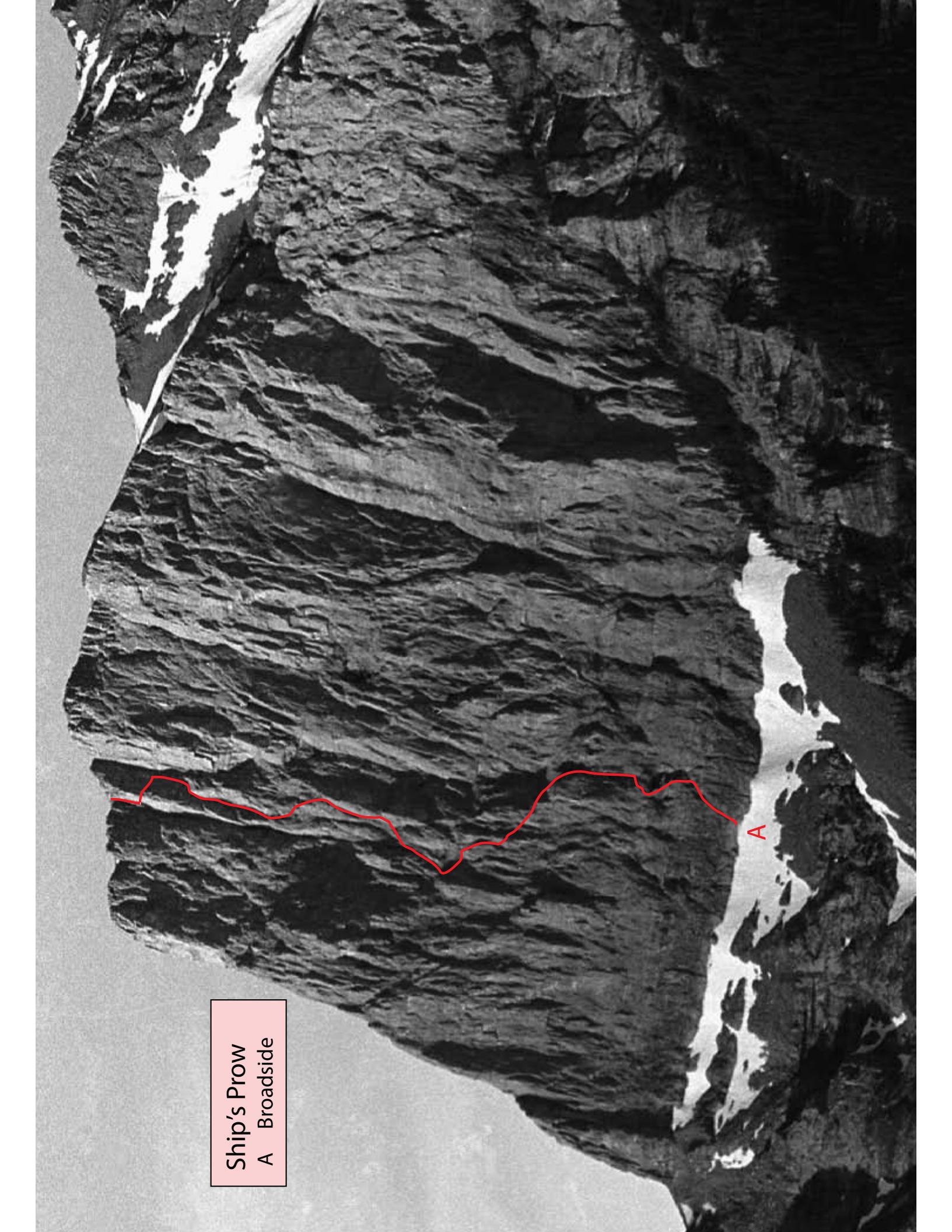
This subdivision may be reached from downtown Canmore by following signs for the Nordic Centre, but instead of turning right onto Highway 742, continue left on Three Sisters Drive into the Homesteads subdivision. After about 800 m, turn right on Peaks Drive, left on Lawrence Grassi Ridge, and just after the road curves around to the right (west) and becomes Wilson Way park on the left (south) side of the road by an open storm water channel lined with boulders. Walk up the channel, through a break in a wooden barricade, and follow an old road that curves around to the left (east).

Continue along the road for about 700 m past an open, sunken area on the right until it crosses the dry, indistinct bed of the stream that drains the large bowl below the cliff's northwest face. Turn right onto a road that parallels the streambed on its east side and follow the road, bearing right at a fork, for about 600 m to a small cliff at the end of a rocky ridge on the left. From here, there are two ways of reaching the cliff.

To access via the northeast ridge (approach #1), continue east along the road that climbs a little at first and then contours along a wooded bench over to the base of the northeast ridge below Ship's Prow (junction with an old road coming up from Three Sisters Creek, approach #2). The road then turns southward and traverses the hillside overlooking Three Sisters Creek for about 700 m until it ends. At this point, the hillside on the east side of the ridge is fairly open and leads easily to the crest of the ridge that is then followed to the base of the prow.

### Approach #2—via Three Sisters Creek

This approach joins #1 at the junction noted above. The beginning of the approach, however,



Ship's Prow  
A Broadside

A

is subject to change as the area is undergoing active development by Three Sisters Resorts. The route described here begins at the junction of Mine Haulage Road and a dirt road, identified as #8, which heads south along the west side of Three Sisters Creek. The current edition of Volume 1 of the Kananaskis Country Trail Guide by Gillean Daffern gives the latest published information on how to get to this point, although at present it is also advisable to check with the Three Sisters Resorts security staff. Once on the dirt road, follow it to a small concrete dam, cross to the east side of the creek, and continue for a short distance (about 120 m) to where a right-hand branch of the trail leads back to the creek. On the opposite (west) side of the creek there is a large earth scar and an old, overgrown road zigzags steeply up to the right of this to the junction noted in approach #1. From here, continue as described to the end of the road and climb the east side of the ridge to the prow.

### Approach #3—via the west drainage

This route climbs the large drainage directly below the northwest face of Ship's Prow and gives the easiest access to that section of the cliff. The drainage can be reached following approach #1 as far as the small cliff at the end of the rocky ridge (see above) and then dropping down right into the creekbed. Although overgrown initially, the creekbed leads easily to an open, upper bowl and hence to the base of the northwest face.

### Descent

An easy descent may be made to the base of the cliff by scree slopes on the east side of the prow. Alternatively, steep scree slopes may be traversed to gain the ridge leading west from the Third Sister. Some 300 m to the east it is possible to descend a scree gully all the way to the gravel road north of the Spray Lakes Canal. The same route could possibly be used for approach as the elevation gain is considerably less than from the Bow Valley and approach gear could be left at the top of the cliff.

**Ship's Prow 470 m, 5.10b (or 5.9 and A2)**

L. MacKay & C. Scott, 1965

F.F.A.: S. Parboosingh. N. Preshaw & R. Preshaw, 1989

The prow itself is a fine, natural line but the climb is spoilt somewhat by poor rock in the lower section and the long approach. A prominent feature, near the top, is a steep slab of gray rock undercut by overhangs. This "headwall" was originally climbed using aid but a free ascent has now been made.

Start about 100 m left of the prow below a wide, waterworn scoop. Scramble up for 25 m and belay.

- 1) 45 m, 5.7 Climb the scoop to a bay above a ledge. Move up with difficulty to a narrow ledge that leads left to shattered grooves. Climb these to easier ground above and continue up left to a poor belay.
- 2-3) 90 m Scramble up right to an edge, cross a wide gully and move up to a bowl on the left side of a lesser buttress, below and left of a prominent roof.
- 4-5) 90 m, 5.1 Climb the right side of the bowl and continue up a ridge to a large ledge running out right to the prow.
- 6) 25 m Walk right along the ledge and belay at a flake about 20 m before the prow.
- 7) 35 m, 5.5 Climb diagonally right to the prow and continue up this on good holds to a ledge.
- 8) 40 m, 5.8 Follow a groove system just right of the prow to a small ledge.
- 9) 45 m, 5.6 Gain an easy corner above and climb up to a stance on the far right side of the headwall, on the ridge crest (piton).
- 10) 30 m, 5.10b (or 5.7 and A2) Edge upward above the piton for 4 m until it is possible to step left onto a sloping slab (marginal protection). Move up to a fixed piton in a horizontal crack (old tension traverse). The piton may also be reached by following a thin crack to the left of the belay and using a few points of aid (original line). Move left from the piton either free or using tension to reach a vertical crack system that leads up to a wide slot in the upper band of overhangs (piton).
- 11) 40 m, 5.9 Struggle up out of the slot and follow a crack above until it is possible to move right on small holds onto clean slabs. Follow these up to a precariously balanced flake on the right.
- 12) 30 m, 5.4 Follow loose chimneys to the top.

Broadside 550 m, 5.9

T. Auger & J. Blench, 1994

Located on the upper left portion of the northwest face are two prominent corners. The route starts in a right-trending crack line well right of the corners and finishes on excellent rock in a subcorner and crack system between them. The lower half of the route is characterized by poor rock and easy climbing but, as on the prow, the quality of the rock improves considerably higher up.

- 1) 40 m, 5.8 Climb over a small bulge at the foot of the crack and follow it for about 40 m to broken ground, which leads up left.

- 2) 45 m, 5.8 Scramble up lower-angled rock and climb a steep, loose crack system, bypassing an overhanging section on its left side.
- 3) 45 m, 5.9 Begin on the right and climb steep, loose, blocky rock, again bypassing difficult ground on its left side.
- 4) 60 m, 4th Follow easier broken ground trending quite far left until below several possible lines in blocky corners.
- 5) 50 m, 5th Continue left and up in a series of chimneys and corners following the easiest line.
- 6) 50 m, 5th More easy ground up and left leads to a point almost directly below the upper left-hand corner.
- 7) 35 m At a terrace-like area, begin moving back right.
- 8) 50 m, 5.9 Climb up and right to the top of a shallow buttress on an edge overlooking a huge right-facing corner system that ends in overhangs. Face-climb up and left (5.9) to reach two parallel cracks that offer good climbing. Belay a short distance below a small roof.
- 9) 25 m, 5.8 Make a difficult move over the roof and continue up to a belay.
- 10) 25 m Continue up and left to the base of a striking corner.
- 11) 25 m, 5.9 Climb the corner to a good ledge on the left.
- 12) 30 m, 5.9 Continue up the corner and the face above to reach a terrace.
- 13) 35 m, 5.9 Walk 10 m to the right and climb the face making difficult moves past a bolt at about 3 m. Continue for a further 5 m and then follow a small, easier ramp leading left. Belay on broken ledges on the outside corner.
- 14) 35 m Traverse 10 m left and finish up the easy gully at the top of the left-hand major corner.

## Project

An incomplete project has been started in a major corner system toward the right-hand side of the face. The corner has a prominent water streak on its right wall that dries in only the hottest of summers. Eight pitches have been climbed to date and the project reaches about two-thirds height.

## Little Bobby On-Sight WI 4+

Located on the far right side of the face is a wet gully system that occasionally forms into a frozen waterfall climb. Consult Joe Josephson's Waterfall Ice for details.

# CANMORE WALL

Canmore Wall is a large, flat face midway between Ship's Prow and Ha Ling Peak. It is about 350 m high. Until recently the face was unclimbed and two obvious lines near the west end had been attempted but abandoned on account of poor rock. The Northwest Ridge was climbed in 1995, but the main face remained untouched until 1998 when two major lines were completed within a few weeks of each other. Both were better than expected and on each, lower sections of rubble gave way to much better rock higher up. Like EEOR, the cliff seems ripe for much more activity in the near future.

## Approach

There is no established trail up to or along the base of the cliff. However, a number of large avalanche gullies cut through the forested slopes below the cliff and provide relatively easy access directly to each area of the face. Despite the almost 800 m elevation gain, approach by any of these gullies is not as bad as may be expected.

The most obvious access route to the Wall is via the long, relatively open gully that leads up to the huge scree bowl at the west side of the cliff. With increased activity on the cliff, this may become established as the principal approach route. Start at the Quarry Lake parking area and walk directly across the field toward Ha Ling Peak and a prominent gap in the trees. Follow a trail to the power line and move right to the west side of the dry creekbed that comes down from the gully and drains into a small lake. An intermittent trail leads easily up the west side of the creekbed and climbs onto the west bank of the gully higher up. Continue to the upper bowl and then move across left to reach the base of the cliff. Alternatively, gain the prominent ridge left of the gully and follow the high ground directly to the west end of the cliff.

An alternative route to the right-hand section of the face is a large avalanche gully located immediately right of the main, treed rib that leads up to the summit. The gully is relatively open, has few cliff bands, and its right-hand fork leads to the start of the climb Lex. It can be reached from the Peaks of Grassi subdivision of Canmore (see Ship's Prow approach) starting from Wilson Way about 200 m west of the junction with Kamenka Green at the top of a small rise.

To reach the eastern section of the face the easiest approach is via an open gully that leads directly to the base of the climb Centurion. Begin at the Peaks of Grassi subdivision, as described under the Ship's Prow access, and follow that approach to the small cliff at the end of a rocky ridge. Drop down right into the Ship's Prow drainage and then continue right for about 100 m to a second drainage that comes down from the east side of Canmore Wall. Hike up this drainage moving right higher up onto the west bank to avoid cliff bands and then follow the right-hand fork of the gully on steep, open ground directly to the base of the cliff (2 hours).

## Descent

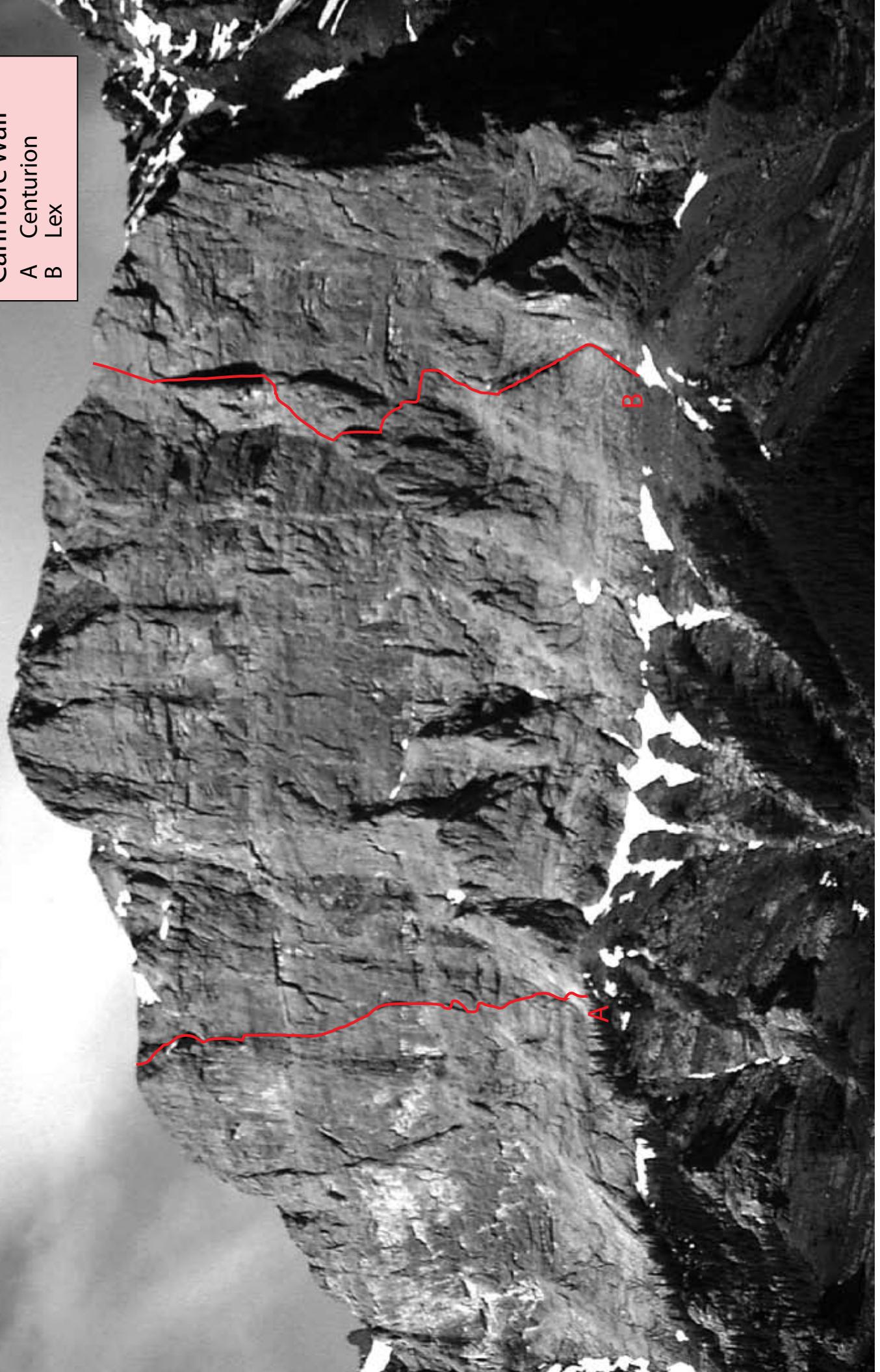
The best descent from Centurion is down easy slopes at the east end of the cliff. For Lex and the Northeast Ridge, the scree gully at the west end gives a relatively straightforward descent although some down-climbing is required. Caution is necessary as the scree covering is quite thin in places and, under some conditions, the gully is subject to rockfall.

Centurion\* 360 m, 5.10b, A1

C. Quinn & C. Perry, August 1998

At the highest point of Canmore Wall, a left-facing buttress splits the face into two sections.

Canmore Wall  
A Centurion  
B Lex



Centurion climbs a left-curving corner and ramp system on the smaller, eastern section and exits via a prominent, water-streaked groove into a small bowl. It has a lot of interesting climbing, reasonably solid rock and a sensational exit pitch that unfortunately is often wet. This pitch was originally climbed using three points of aid but this has since been removed to one (5.10c). Most of the belays are fixed and although some pitons were left in place, it is currently advisable to carry a small selection. Note that the combined ages of each of the first and second ascent parties summed one hundred.

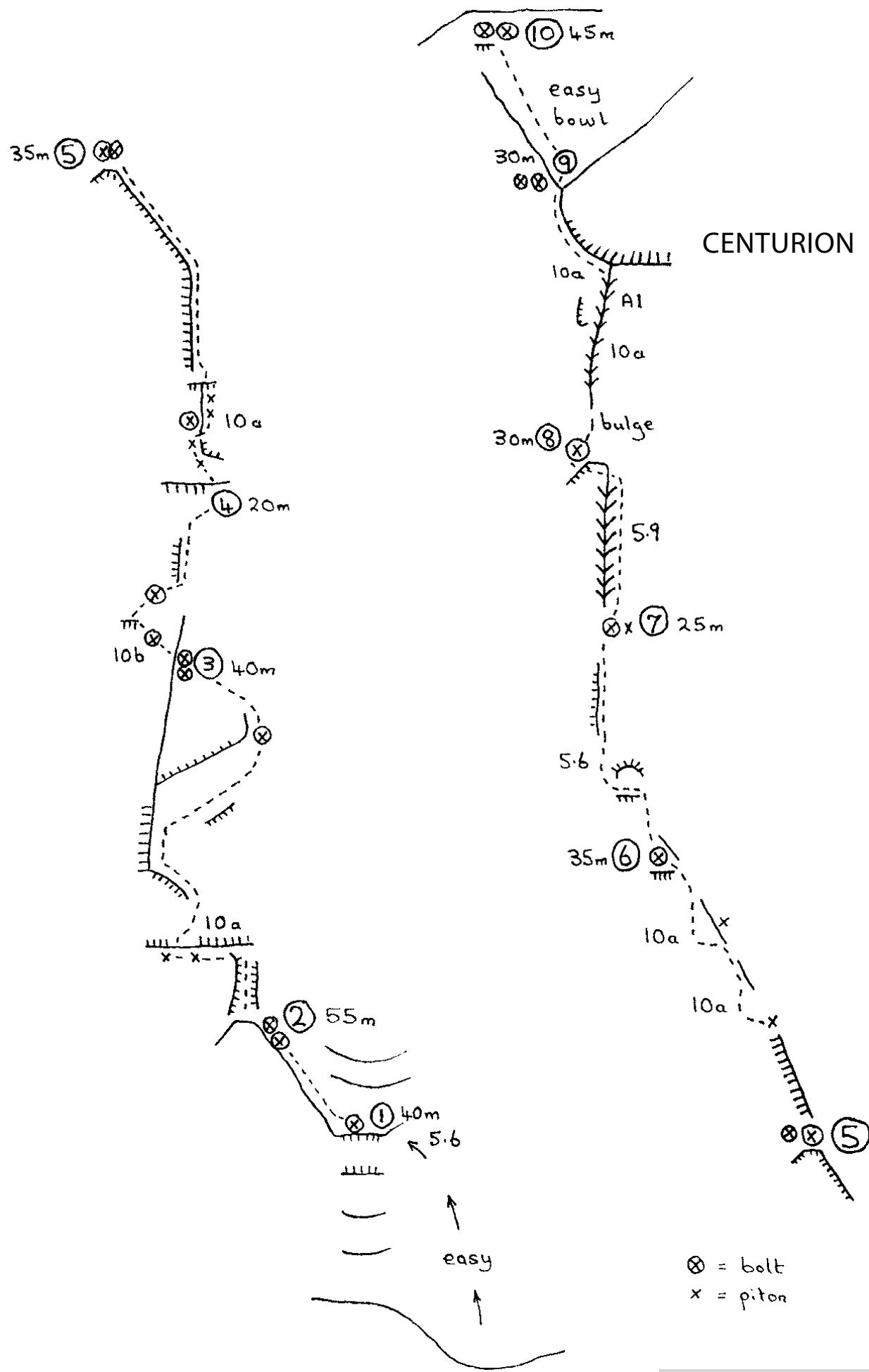
Start about 100 m left of the huge, central buttress, below and to the right of the line, on the right-hand side of a large waterworn scoop.

- 1) 40 m, 5.6 Scramble up mainly easy slabs (one exposed 5.6 move) and move across left to a single bolt belay at a sloping ledge above the steep lower part of the scoop.
- 2) 55 m Continue up and left on easy ground to a bolt belay below and right of a shattered pillar directly below the line.
- 3) 40 m, 5.10a Climb loose rock on the left side of the pillar to a band of overhangs, traverse left beneath the overhangs to the second of two pitons and then climb over a budge with difficulty onto the steep slab above. Move up left to the base of a right-facing corner and then go right on a small ramp and up to a bolt. Continue up and back left to a bolt belay at a small stance in the corner.
- 4) 20 m, 5.10b Move out left to a bolt on a steep slab. Make some thin moves up and then go slightly right past a second bolt to a small corner that leads up to ledges. Belay below an obvious break in the steep wall above. (At present, this belay is not fixed and pitons are required.)
- 5) 35 m, 5.10a Climb over a small roof and continue up the steep corner above (good fixed gear) to the start of the main corner/ramp system. Climb a short corner and an easy slab above to a bolt belay at broken ledges on the left.
- 6) 35 m, 5.10a Climb easily up the ramp to where it closes (piton) and then go left and up to easier ground. Continue up the crack past a tricky section to a bolt belay.
- 7) 25 m, 5.6 Move up trending left on mainly easy ground to a bolt and piton belay below a steep groove system capped by an ominous black roof.
- 8) 30 m, 5.9 Climb the steep lower groove and exit left at the top to a bolt belay.
- 9) 30 m, 5.10a A1 Climb over a budge into the upper groove that leads up to the roof. Climb the groove with increasing difficulty and follow a good crack using aid (three pieces) around the left side of the roof. Finish with some wild layback moves up a short slab to gain a bolt belay at the base of the upper bowl.
- 10) 45 m Scramble up the bowl trending left to a bolt belay just below the top.

Lex 380 m, 5.9+

D. Marra & B. Lawrence, October 1998

The climb follows a prominent right-facing corner visible from the Canmore townsite on the



right-hand side of the wall. There is some loose rock lower down, but the climbing improves considerably higher up and the finishing pitches are reportedly on excellent rock.

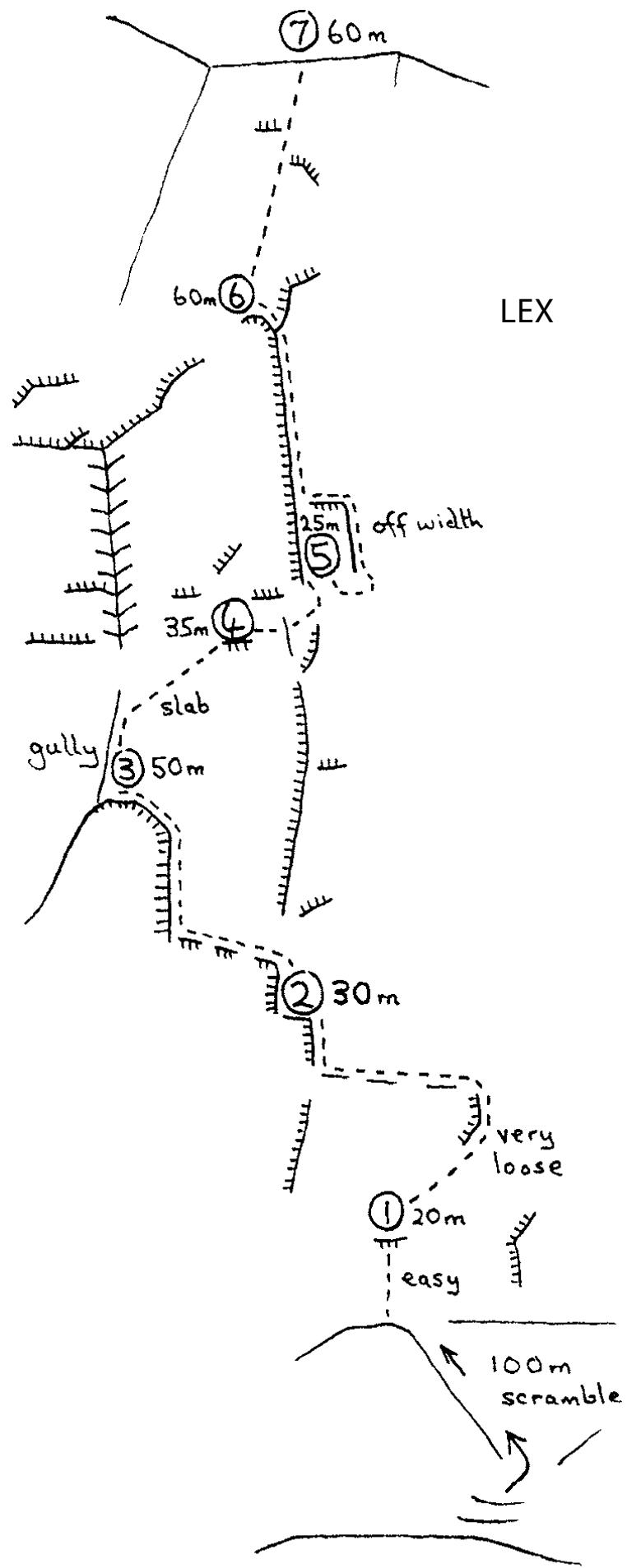
Start Approach up the central gully described above and move rightward at the top to a large bowl at the right end of the wall. Scramble up the bowl for 100 m trending left on fourth class terrain to the top of a rock apex.

- 1) 20 m, 5.4 Climb straight up on easy broken slabs (pitons required for belay).
- 2) 30 m, 5.8+ R Climb up and right on poor rock to gain a small ledge system that leads left to a short, loose corner. Go up this and belay at small broken ledges below another corner on the left. The protection on this pitch is marginal and the rock is the worst on the whole climb.
- 3) 50 m, 5.6 Climb the corner and then move left on a ledge to a larger right-facing corner. Go up this on good rock and belay in a gully on the left.
- 4) 35 m, 5.8 Continue easily up the gully and move onto a clean slab (run-out). Go up and right slightly to reach easier ground above. Belay on the right below a steep wall with large roofs.
- 5) 25 m, 5.7 Traverse directly right on a slab into a short corner. Continue moving right around the edge and into the huge right-facing corner, prominent in the upper part of the face. Belay on the left side of the corner.
- 6) 60 m, 5.9 From the belay, climb down and then move right for a few metres and up to an off-width crack. Go up this to a ledge, move left and climb a corner trending left higher up to exit left onto big ledges.
- 7) 60 m, 5.9+ Climb straight up the slabby wall through small roofs to the top (excellent rock and good gear).

### Northwest Ridge 400 m, 5.5

M. Piche & D. Thom, June 1995

This was the first route done on the wall and is reported to be extremely loose and not recommended. Start high in the large scree bowl on the right (west) side of the main face at the right-hand of two ridges. Follow slabs and ramps past short, steep sections trending left and meeting the main ridge level with a huge detached block. Continue up the sharp ridge on better rock to the top.



# HA LING PEAK

The impressive north face of Ha Ling Peak is a prominent landmark in the Bow Valley near Canmore. It has inspired countless ascents of the mountain via its easy southern slopes, supposedly beginning with that of Ha Ling, a person of Chinese descent. The original name of Chinaman's Peak has been changed recently to more respectfully commemorate this ascent although it is still very widely used.

The face was one of the earliest major features in the Bow Valley to be climbed and the original 1961 route up the northeast face is now a popular rock-climbing route that goes directly to the summit. Other climbs have been added over the years on the true north face of the peak, but considerable scope exists for more. All the routes are long and serious undertakings particularly as bad weather tends to approach unseen from the southwest side of the mountain.

The climbs on Ha Ling Peak are reached from the earth dam at the north end of Whiteman Pond (no name change, as yet), a small lake on the Spray Lakes road, at the top of the hill overlooking Canmore. It is no longer possible to park at the dam itself and presently, cars must be left a few hundred metres farther south at a wide pullout next to the lake. The same parking area is used for Kanga Crag and EEOR.

## Approach



Ha Ling Peak from the Whiteman Pond dam. Viagra Point is the shaded cliff in the bottom right.

Walk across the earth dam and climb over a gated, chain-link fence. Continue to the end of the road and then turn right past the fence surrounding the water intake structure and follow a small trail up through trees. After about 50 m, turn right at a T-junction with a larger trail and continue along this for about 20 m to a small cairn on the left marking a side trail that climbs directly up the hillside. The trail passes through some large boulders and then turns right and contours over to an open slope. At this point the lower cliff bands (Viagra Point) are visible directly ahead and may be reached by staying low and contouring across the scree. To reach the main cliff, follow a good trail that diagonals across the slope and then zigzags up near the edge of the trees before moving up to the base of the cliff. It is strongly recommended helmets be worn at least for the last part of the trail below the Northeast Face route. The climb is still quite loose and parties on the climb cannot see the trail below.

### Descent

A good hiking trail has recently been constructed on easy slopes on the southwest side of the mountain. From the summit follow the trail down left (south) initially and then across right for some distance to the treed shoulder overlooking the Spray Lakes road and the Goat Creek parking area. The trail zigzags down a steep, wooded hillside and leads to a bridge across the diversion canal at the foot of the mountain. The Spray Lakes road is a short distance ahead and a 1.3 km walk leads back to the Whiteman Pond dam.

To return to the base of the cliff, steep slopes on either side of the mountain may be descended although the route in neither direction is straightforward. Descent of the large, slabby bowl on the east side of the peak involves complex routefinding and sections of exposed down-climbing. It is recommended only for experienced parties although the lower section, below the large ledge on the Northeast Face, is less serious and can be used to retreat from that route in an emergency. Broken slabs and cliff bands on the west side of the peak offer a similarly tricky means of descent although with increased traffic a satisfactory route may become established. To descend in this direction, follow the hiking trail down to the shoulder overlooking the Spray Lakes road and then head north to the top of broken slabs above the lower cliff bands of Viagra Point. Scramble down through the slabs and then follow a long series of ledges that lead over to the right (east) and almost connect with the scree slope at the base of the cliff (see photograph of Ha Ling Peak from the Whiteman Pond dam). Either rappel or down-climb a small scoop to reach easy ground (a bolted station would be useful here).

### Northeast Face\*\* 450 m, 5.6

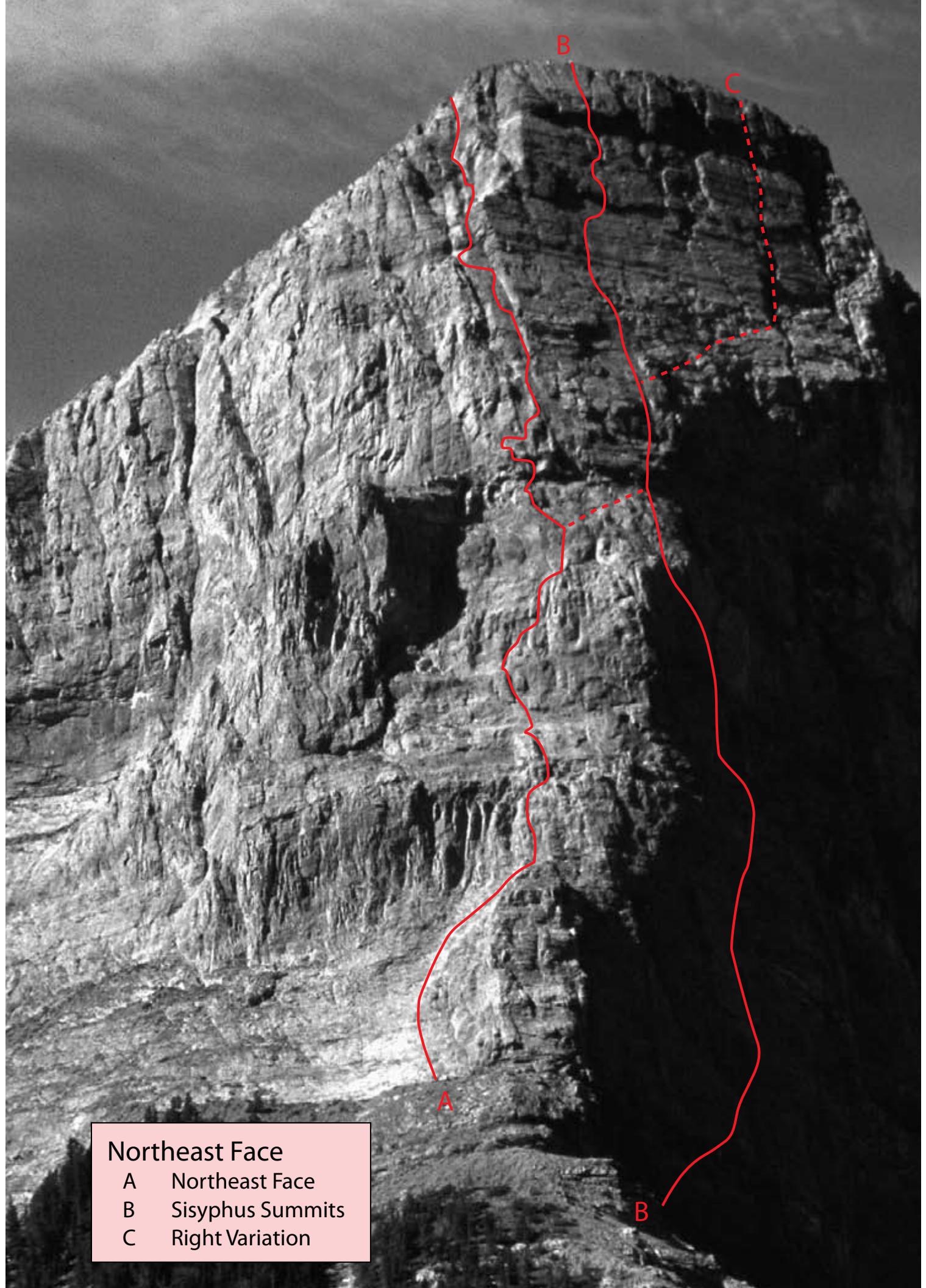
B. Greenwood, G. Prinz, D. Raubach & W. Twelker, July 1961

This classic route follows the buttress between the North and Northeast faces and provides interesting climbing in a fine situation. Two practically independent lines have been done, but

the best route is a combination of the two and this is described here as the principal means of ascent. Nowadays the route has a lot of fixed gear but it remains a serious undertaking with loose rock at stances, dubious pitons and a propensity for attracting afternoon thunderstorms. There have been numerous epics and even fatalities on this climb and it deserves respect from inexperienced parties. Pitons are not required but take a reasonable selection of gear, a few long slings and preferably two ropes in case of retreat.

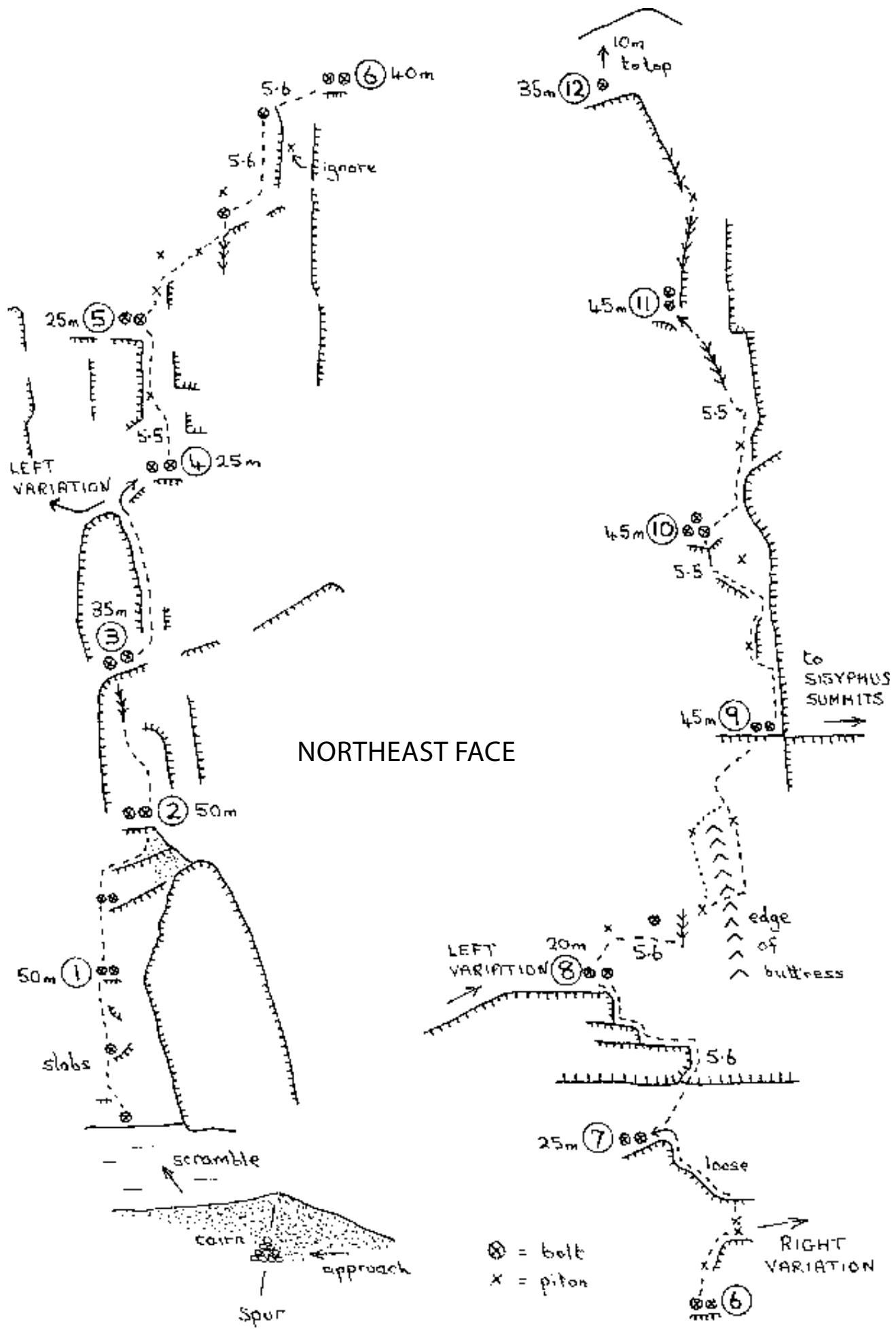
Start Follow the trail beneath the face to a cairn on the spur beneath the buttress. Go around to the left for about 25 m and scramble up and slightly left on easy ground to the base of some slabs. A bolt marks the start of the climb that is about 15 m left of a long, left-facing corner.

- 1-2) 100 m Climb fourth class slabs left of the left-facing corner system and continue up right to scree ledges on the edge of the buttress. The route passes three bolted stations at 25 m intervals. Move up to a final bolted station at a break on the edge of the buttress.
- 3) 35 m, 5.4 Move right and climb the front of the buttress to a short groove that leads to a bolted station at a ledge.
- 4) 25 m, 5.4 Climb an easy corner on the right-hand side of a broad pinnacle and move up right at the top to a bolt belay.
- 5) 25 m, 5.5 Climb up to a shallow corner (piton) and continue up to a ledge and bolt belay.
- 6) 40 m, 5.6 Climb up diagonally right over shattered corners past a number of pitons and a bolt to a short, right-facing corner just before a longer left-facing corner system that comes up from below. Climb the steep wall left of the short corner to a bolt and then traverse right across the top of the corner system to a ledge and bolt belay on the edge of the buttress.
- 7) 25 m, 5.4 Continue up to a ledge 7 m higher (pitons) and then go up and diagonally left on a broken corner/ramp to a small bolted station on the left.
- 8) 20 m, 5.6 Move up and right slightly to an obvious break in the impressive band of overhangs immediately above and climb through this on good holds to a ledge system. Move left and go up to a large ledge 5 m higher (bolt belay). This ledge is also reached by the Left Variation.
- 9) 45 m, 5.6 Move up above the belay and then traverse right across a slab (bolt) to a short corner. Continue up and right onto the edge of the buttress (exposed) and then go up its right (or left) side to a ledge at the base of the long, upper corner system (bolt belay). The final pitches of the sport route Sisyphus Summits can be reached from here by an easy traverse right around the edge of the buttress. These lead directly to the summit, the hardest pitch being 5.10a.
- 10) 45 m, 5.5 Climb the corner for about 25 m until it is easier to move onto the left wall. Go up past a piton and rejoin the corner higher up. Move out left on a small ramp (piton and sling on the wall above) and climb an awkward little runnel to a bolt belay.
- 11) 45 m, 5.5 Move back right to a bulge in the corner and climb the easy left wall. Continue up a short, loose corner (piton), and then step across left and climb an easy groove to a bolt belay.



**Northeast Face**

- A Northeast Face
- B Sisyphus Summits
- C Right Variation





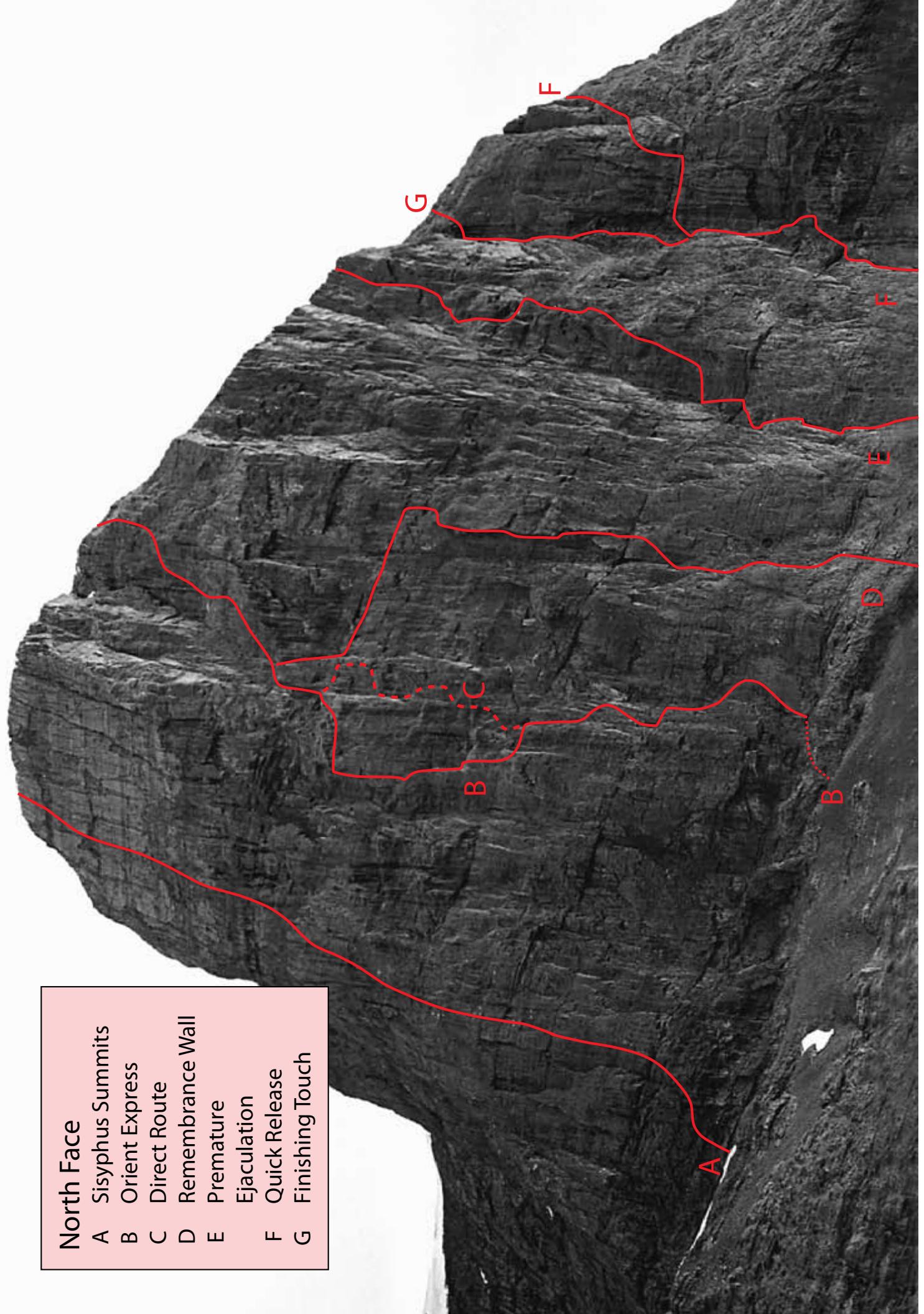
The overhang on pitch 8 of the Northeast Face. Climber Chris Perry.

- 12) 35 m, 5.4 Continue up the groove above and move up left past a piton into the final corner. Belay at a single bolt a short distance below the top.

#### Left Variation:

This was the line followed on the first ascent and provides an alternative, but not recommended route for the middle section of the climb. It is rarely done and has little fixed gear.

- 5-7) 140 m, 5.6 From the belay at the top of pitch 4, move back down to the top of the broad pinnacle, and climb left and up over short slabs and cracks to a ledge about 60 m below a



**North Face**

- A Sisyphus Summits
- B Orient Express
- C Direct Route
- D Remembrance Wall
- E Premature Ejaculation
- F Quick Release
- G Finishing Touch



The big dihedral near the top of the Northeast Face. Climber Ian Perry.

large, conspicuous ledge on the left side of the buttress. Bypass an overhang on the right and continue up the wall, trending left (loose rock), to gain the large ledge near its left end. Walk right to the bolt belay at the top of pitch 8 of the normal route where the ledge joins the main wall.

#### Right Variation:

This alternative finish traverses right below the band of overhangs above pitch 7 of the normal route, breaks through them, and climbs the huge upper slab to the top of the mountain. Like the Left Variation, it is rarely done and currently pitons are required.

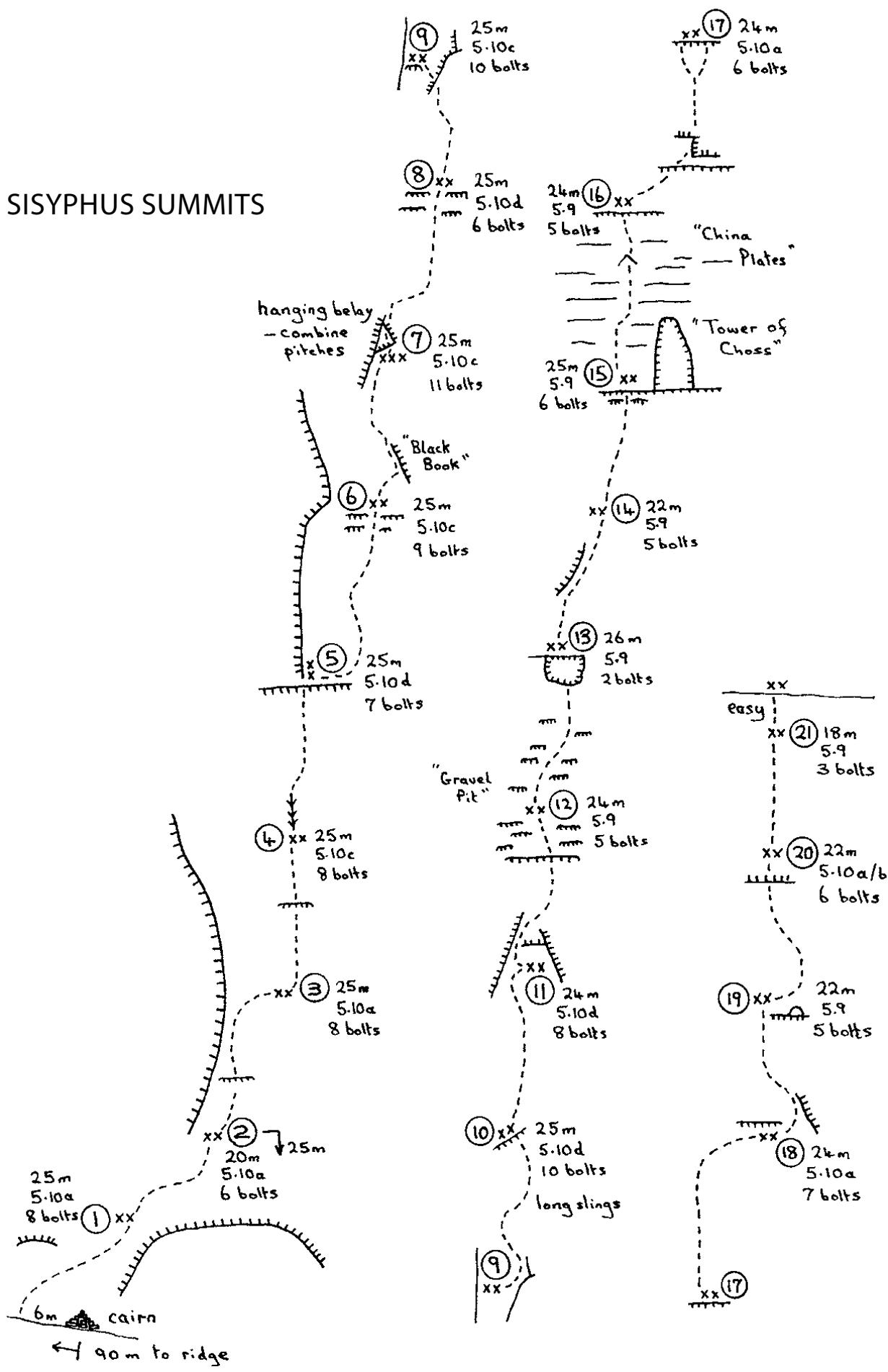
- 7) 50 m, 5.5 To pass the overhangs above, make a long traverse right to a small belay below a short, steep corner immediately beyond a section of slabs.
- 8) 55 m, 5.7 Climb the rib on the right and continue up and then slightly left to a short layback crack (the pitch may be split here). From the top of the crack, go up slabs to a big horizontal ledge (piton). Sisyphus Summits crosses the route at this point.
- 9-10) 75 m, 5.3 Move right to a pillar, climb halfway up behind it, then traverse a long way right past a crack to the base of an obvious chimney in the upper slab.
- 11-12) 100 m, 5.6 Follow the chimney that narrows higher up and leads to the top.

**Sisyphus Summits\*** 500 m, 5.10d

R. Chayer, H. Lenny & G. Hill, September 1994

Heralded as the longest sport climb north of Mexico, this 17 pitch bolt extravaganza got mixed reviews at its inception, but now has an accepted place in Bow Valley climbing. The climb is en-

## SISYPHUS SUMMITS



tirely protected by bolts, has 25 m pitches, and strives to find the best rock and most interesting climbing. It succeeds to a large extent although in places the line is contrived. The character of the route is quite different from the other North Face climbs but it represents a significant, and perhaps no longer controversial, achievement.

**Start** The climb begins at a narrow section of the trail about 90 m before the prominent cairn on the spur beneath the northeast buttress. The start is marked by a small cairn (6-7 m to the right), but the friendly line of bolts leading upward is hard to miss. Large sections of the route can be done as 50 m pitches and this greatly speeds up the ascent. Expect some rock fall and be prepared for rapidly changing weather.

**Orient Express\*** 545 m, 5.9 or 5.11d

J. Firth, C. Perry & M. Sawyer, August 1976

Left Variation: D. Cheesmond & U. Kallen, July 1983

F.F.A.: Left Variation: D. Morgan & C. Perry, August 1983

F.F.A.: Direct (Original) Route: R. Debeyer & R. Slawinski, August 1999

Located at the top left of the north face is a prominent dihedral that slants to the right. The climb ascends the steep wall directly below this dihedral. It was originally called simply The North Face Route but the name has been changed to an early suggestion to avoid confusion with more recent climbs. The first ascent, which was completed between frequent rain showers, took three days and followed a direct line involving some sections of aid. These were avoided on the second ascent by climbing an essentially free line to the left in the middle section of the face. This Left Variation allows the route to be climbed free at 5.9 and this a worthwhile outing that can be completed in a day. The original line has recently been retrofitted and free-climbed at 5.11d and is described below as the Direct Route. On the crux sixth pitch, four bolts were hand-placed on lead to back up the four already there. Also, one bolt was added to each of belays 1, 2, 4 and 5 (belays 3, 6, 7 and 8 could also use an additional bolt). The old bolts appear to be in reasonable shape but have small carabiner holes. While the harder sections are well-protected on good rock, this remains a "traditional" climb. In particular, a small selection of pitons is recommended for protection and belays. The first two pitches are quite loose but the rock becomes much better higher up.

**Start** directly below the upper dihedral, scramble up and then right on ledges to below a right-facing corner 10 m up, with steep slabs on the right.

- 1) 45 m, 5.7 Go up a small, left-facing corner for a few metres, then step up into the right-facing corner mentioned above. Climb up and diagonally right across the slabs to a left-facing corner high up. Follow the corner to a ledge (bolt belay).
- 2) 50 m, 5.8 Follow loose ramps up and left past a piton to a short right-facing corner. Climb the corner for a few metres, move right and then back left on broken rock to a ledge (bolt and optional belay). Traverse along the ledge to its left end (bolt and piton belay).
- 3) 30 m, 5.9 Climb a steep crack in good rock for about 10 m to a small roof (piton). Traverse steeply right to a right-facing corner (piton), climb it for a few metres to below another

small roof, and then move right again to a shallow groove (piton). Follow the groove to a small ledge with a bolt belay.

- 4) 25 m, 5.9 Climb a steep ramp up and left for 5 m, traverse 5 m left past a piton, step up onto a small slab and then move left to a groove (bolt). Climb the groove past a bulge to a ledge on the left (bolt belay).
- 5) 45 m, 5.7 Follow the corner system above, moving right near the top, to a good ledge and bolt belay.

#### Left Variation:

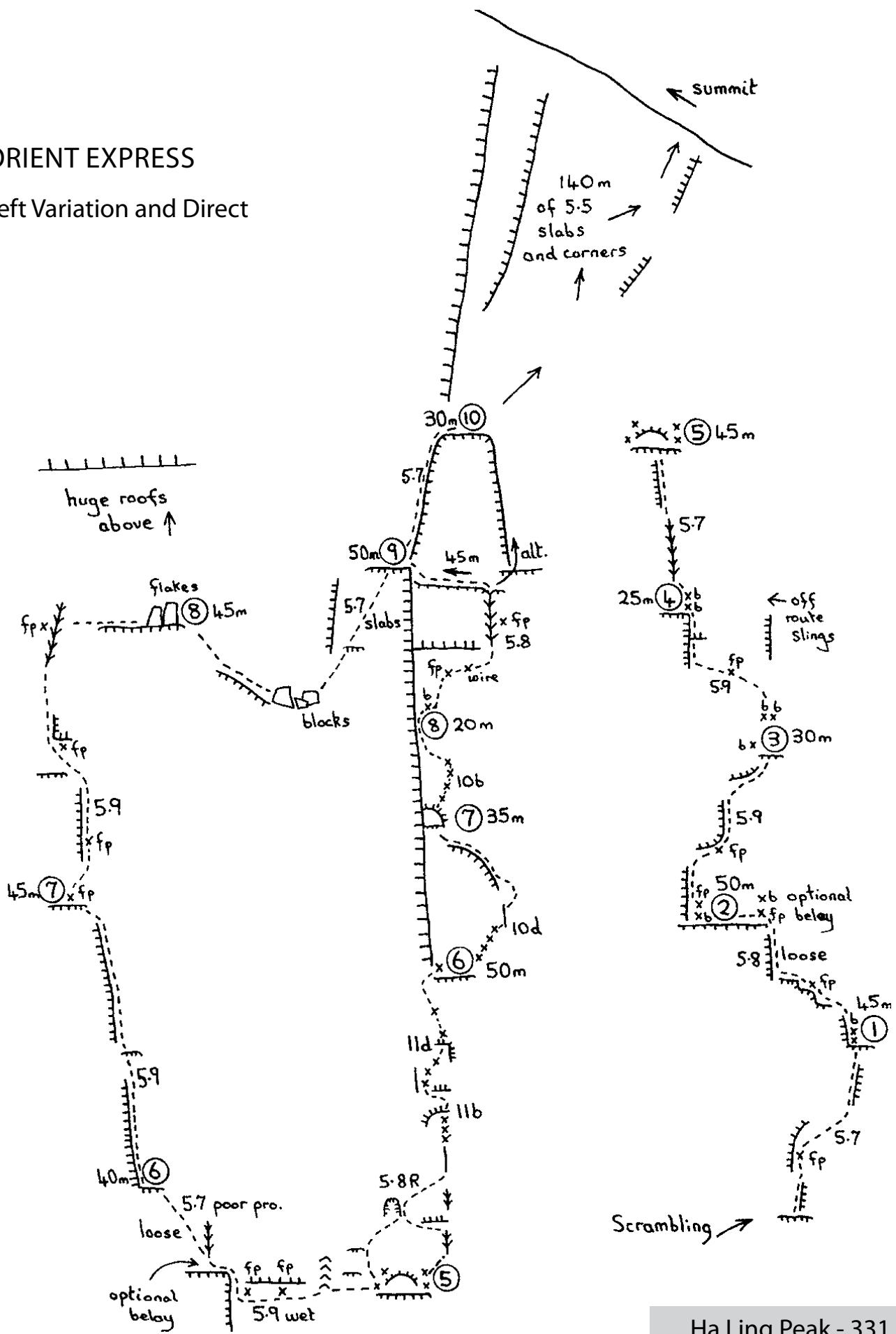
- 6) 40 m, 5.9 Move across to the far left end of the ledge and make a difficult traverse left beneath an overhang (usually wet). Move up to a ledge and optional belay. Continue up and then left to the base of a corner system.
- 7) 45 m, 5.9 Climb to the top of the corner and small ledges on the left.
- 8) 45 m, 5.9 Move right and climb a steep wall to a shallow corner (piton). Follow the corner for a short distance, then climb left and up to a good ledge. Continue to a large ledge higher up.
- 9) 50 m, 5.7 Make a long traverse down and right, then climb slabs to a good ledge (junction with the original route).
- 10) 30 m, 5.7 Climb the steep corner above the ledge to the base of the upper dihedral.
- 11-13) 140 m, 5.5 Climb slabs and corners on the right side of the dihedral finishing well out on the right.

#### Direct (Original) Route:

- 6) 50 m, 5.11d From the far right end of the ledge, climb a groove for 5 m to an overlap, then traverse left and up to a small pedestal (this point may also be reached by climbing broken rock farther left). Traverse up and right on excellent rock to a small niche directly above the belay (run-out 5.8). Climb up past three bolts to an awkward lip. Pull over this using a mono pocket (5.11b) and step over the overlap above to a rest stance. Move left to the first of the next four bolts. Climb the increasingly difficult groove above (5.11d) to reach the base of a large slab. Climb up past another bolt, trend left and then go back right to a ledge below a large corner (bolt belay).
- 7) 35 m, 5.10d From the right side of the ledge, climb up past three bolts to a thin crack. Make a few strenuous moves up the crack and then stretch right to a jug. Follow a groove that slants back left to the main corner. Belay in a small alcove.
- 8) 20 m, 5.10b Climb up past four bolts and continue more easily up the corner to a belay on the slabs above (single bolt).
- 9) 45 m, 5.8 Climb up and right past a piton and fixed wire. Traverse right for 5 m and climb a steep corner to a horizontal break. Either follow the break back left past the top of the main corner to the ledge at the top of pitch 9 of the Left Variation, or climb up and right and belay in the exit corner of Remembrance Wall.
- 10) 30 m, 5.7 or 5.8 Depending on which option was taken on pitch 9, either climb pitch 10 of

# ORIENT EXPRESS

## Left Variation and Direct



the Left Variation (5.7) or the remainder of pitch 9 of Remembrance Wall (5.8) to the base of the upper dihedral.

11-13) 140 m, 5.5 Climb slabs and corners on the right side of the dihedral finishing well out on the right.

### Remembrance Wall\*\* 555 m, 5.11b

S. DeMaio & J. Marshall, July 1987

F.F.A.: R. Slawinski & E. Dumerac, July 1999

The climb follows a major line right of Orient Express but is forced left onto that route by large overhangs near the top. It is a very worthwhile route, offering some of the best and most sustained climbing on the north face of Ha Ling Peak. The first 2 pitches are somewhat loose but the rock above is generally excellent. Most belays are fixed but a small selection of pitons is recommended.

Original attempts on the route almost succeeded in breaking through the overhangs above pitch 7 (see topo and photograph) and DeMaio claims they were less than 20 m from easy ground. For those interested in adding a direct finish, keep in mind this comment was made during the height of Marshall and DeMaio's new route spree on the local walls and both have a legendary habit of remembering routes as being more straightforward than they really are. The climb is named in memory of D. Cheesmond, I. Bolt, D. Guthrie and D. Monroe, all of whom died in the mountains in 1987.

Start Scramble up for 10 m to a ledge below a shallow, right-facing corner.

- 1) 45 m, 5.6 Climb the corner to a large ledge. Traverse left to a bolt and piton belay.
- 2) 55 m, 5.10a Continue left along the ledge to a large right-facing corner. Climb the corner past an overhang to near its top. Break out onto the left edge of the corner on good holds and go up for 5 m to a small belay (thread).
- 3) 45 m, 5.8 Climb ramps and corners trending left, and then move back right over a short wall to a good ledge. Belay below a clean, right-facing corner (bolt and piton).
- 4) 45 m, 5.9 Climb the corner (piton) until a traverse right can be made across the wall to a ledge. Move right along the ledge to a groove and go up this to a short right-facing corner. Above the corner climb the right side of a detached pinnacle to a two-bolt belay at its top.
- 5) 50 m, 5.11b Climb the left-facing corner above the belay to a hanging block about 10 m below the top. Follow a traverse line of side-pulls and crimps left to better holds (crux). Climb up to a detached flake (good knife-blade crack below) and step gently over it. Pull over an overlap into the continuation of the corner above and follow it to a small single-bolt belay. The original route went up to the top of the corner and then used aid or tension to move out left.
- 6) 45 m, 5.11a Climb the sustained corner on excellent rock past an overhang and a bolt

higher up to a good ledge on the right (bolt and piton belay).

- 7) 35 m, 5.10b Continue to the top of the corner and then go up to a bolt on a clean slab. Move up and right and climb a short right-facing corner (piton) to a traverse line leading left to a single-bolt belay.
- 8) 50 m, 5.9 Make a long traverse left on excellent rock past a bolt at the start, following the lower of two horizontal cracks. Belay on a loose ledge system.
- 9) 45 m, 5.8 Continue left and climb a right-facing corner and the chimney above to gain the upper dihedral of Orient Express.
- 10-12) 140 m, 5.5 Climb slabs and corners on the right side of the dihedral finishing well out on the right.

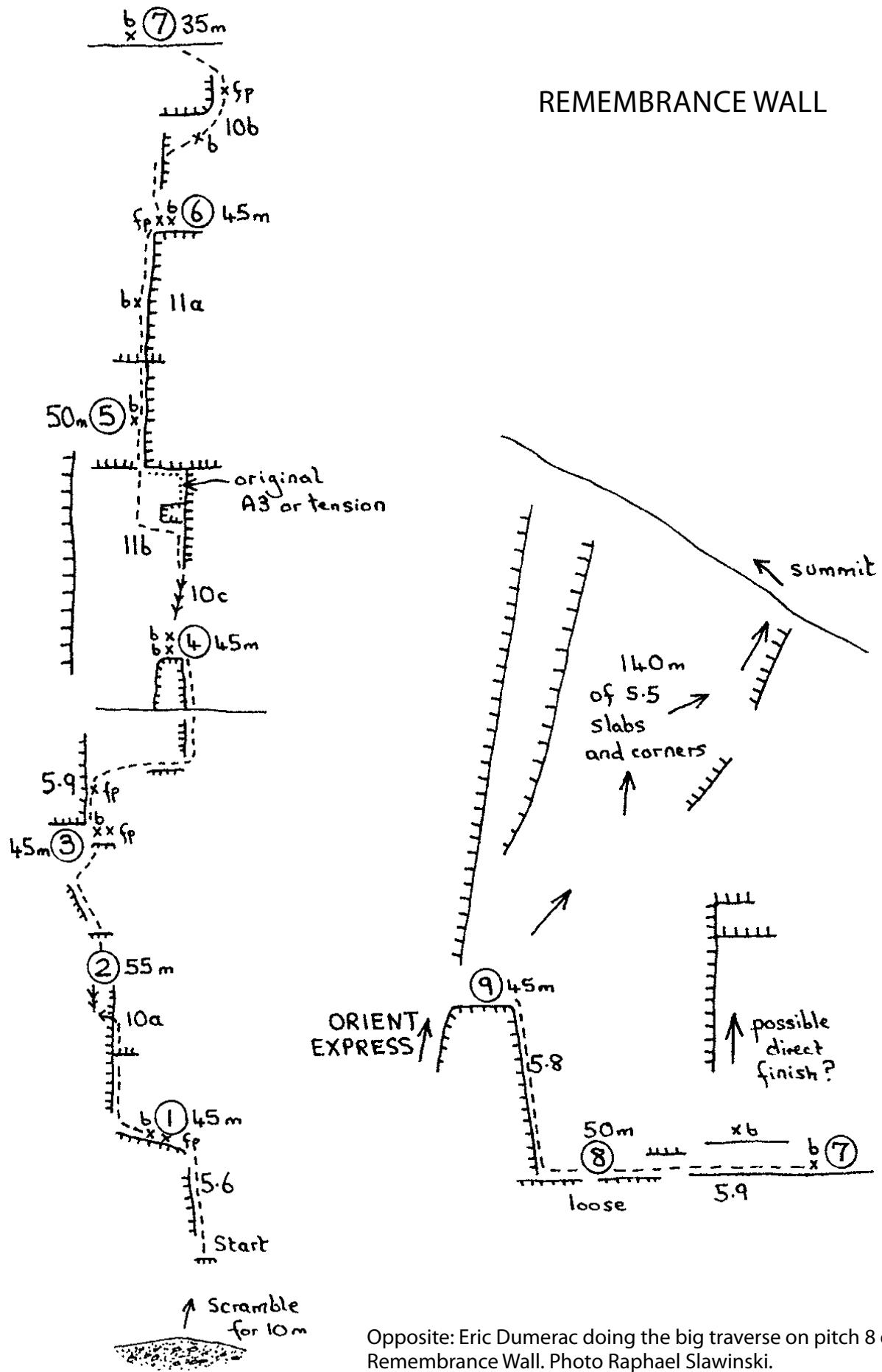
**Premature Ejaculation\*\* 400 m, 5.10b**

D. Cheesmond & B. Gross, July 1985

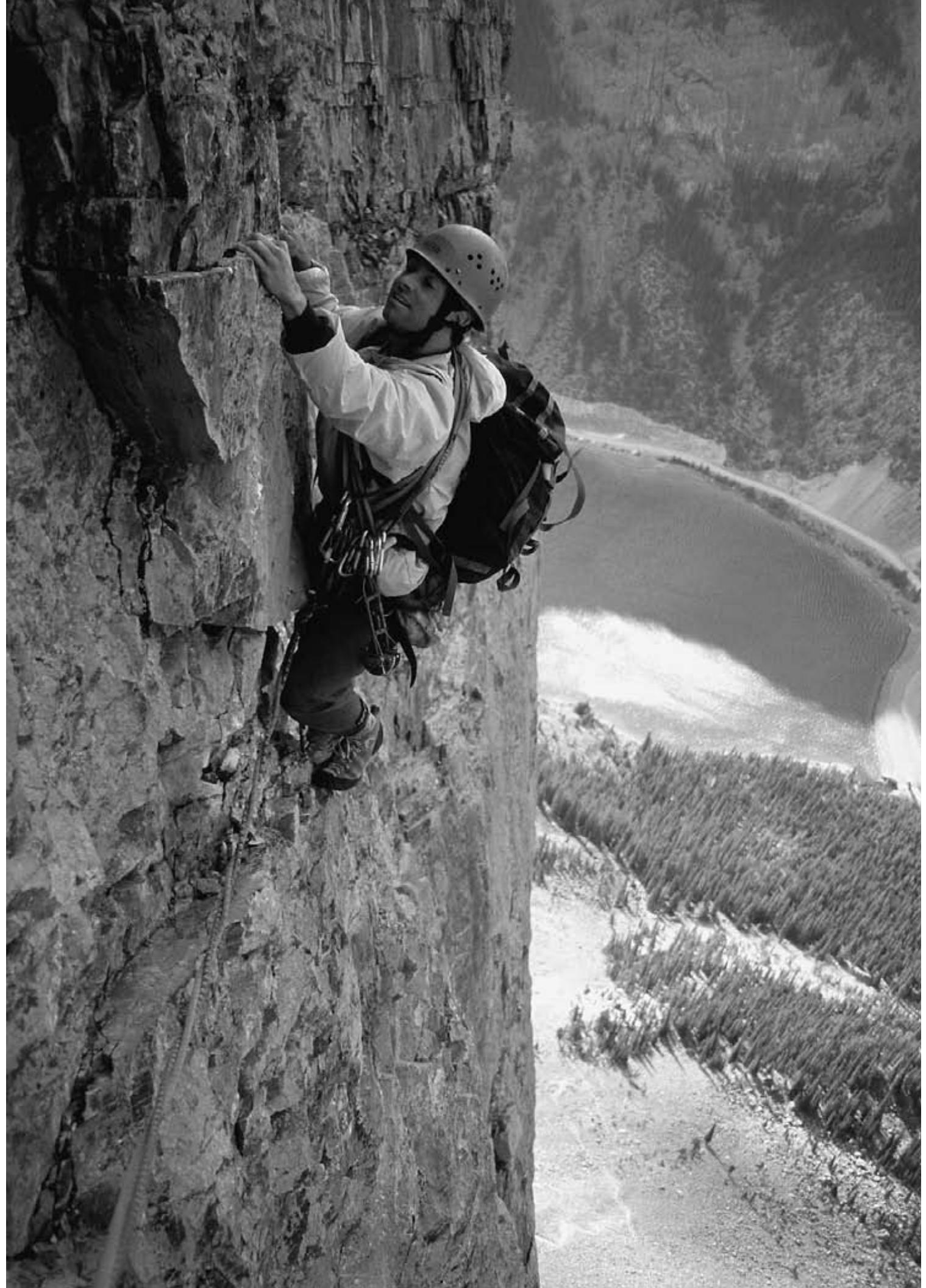
This excellent route climbs the left-hand of the two prominent dihedrals on the right side of the north face. The line was first tried by Steve DeMaio and John Kaandorp on an early visit to western Canada and the top of pitch 5 was reached by a more direct line up the main corner system. An epic retreat was made via a long traverse right onto Quick Release and this inspired the original route name "Premature Evacuation."



Sean Dougherty on an early attempt on Remembrance Wall. Photo Steve DeMaio.



Opposite: Eric Dumerac doing the big traverse on pitch 8 of Remembrance Wall. Photo Raphael Slawinski.



The climbing is sustained and the rock is mainly excellent. However, the route has a reputation for seriousness as the belay at the top of pitch 6 is poor and the next pitch is run-out. There is some debate over whether the route should be "fixed up" since seriousness is presently part of the route's character. Perhaps inevitably bolts will be added but currently go prepared for some tense climbing and take a few pitons.

Start Scramble up the corner for 30 m to a ledge and piton belay.

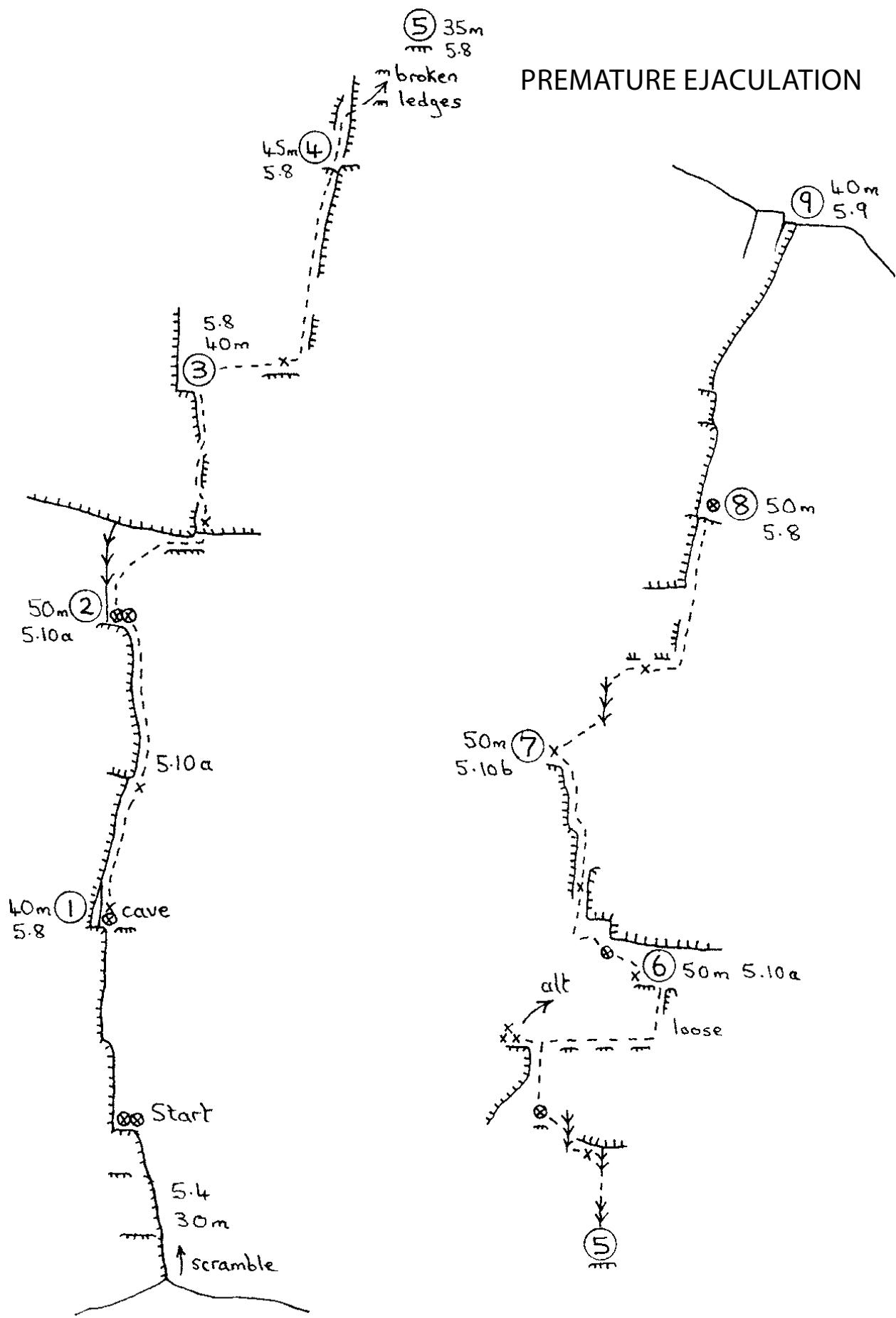
- 1) 40 m, 5.8 Climb the corner to a large ledge with a small cave and a piton belay.
- 2) 50 m, 5.10a Continue up the corner with increasing difficulty to a ledge and piton belay about 5 m below an overlap.
- 3) 40 m, 5.8 Climb up to the overlap and move right to a piton. Continue straight up into a corner and belay at a ledge on the left, level with a faint break leading rightward across a slab (sling belay).
- 4) 45 m, 5.8 Traverse along the break past a piton to a corner system and climb this to a belay below a steep groove.
- 5) 35 m, 5.8 Climb a short way up the groove and then step right onto the face. Continue up broken ledges to the highest ledge on the right.
- 6) 50 m, 5.10a Climb the right hand of two shallow grooves to detached blocks below a roof (piton) and then traverse left past a short groove to a bolt at a ledge. Climb up and either move left to a ledge (pitons) and then go diagonally right up a loose wall to a ledge and single piton belay, or follow small ledges over to the right and climb straight up the wall past a small pillar and move left to the same ledge.
- 7) 50 m, 5.10b Traverse left below the roof (bolt) and make a tricky step onto a slabby wall. Climb up to an obvious corner and go up this past a piton to a belay on the left (pitons).
- 8) 50 m, 5.8 Climb up and right on easy rock to a groove and go up this to a traverse right below broken roofs (piton). At the end of the roofs, move up to a right-facing corner on surprising holds and in an awesome position. Belay part way up the corner at a bolt or at a ledge 5 m higher.
- 9) 40 m, 5.9 Continue up the corner to the top.

Quick Release\* (and Finishing Touch)\*\* 375 m, 5.10a

J. Bauer & T. Jones, July 1976

Direct finish (Finishing Touch) and F.F.A.: B. Gross, B. Baxter and C. Quinn, July 1985

Quick Release follows the right hand of the two prominent dihedrals until a steep section is reached at about two-thirds height. A traverse right is then made to gain an easy right-slanting exit line. Finishing Touch is a direct finish that continues to the top of the dihedral. The rock is generally very good, and both climbs, particularly the direct finish, are sustained and well



worthwhile. Quick Release makes a good introduction to climbing on the north face but can stay wet late into the summer.

**Start** Climb easily up a groove on the right to a ledge. Continue to a ledge 15 m higher and a bolt belay.

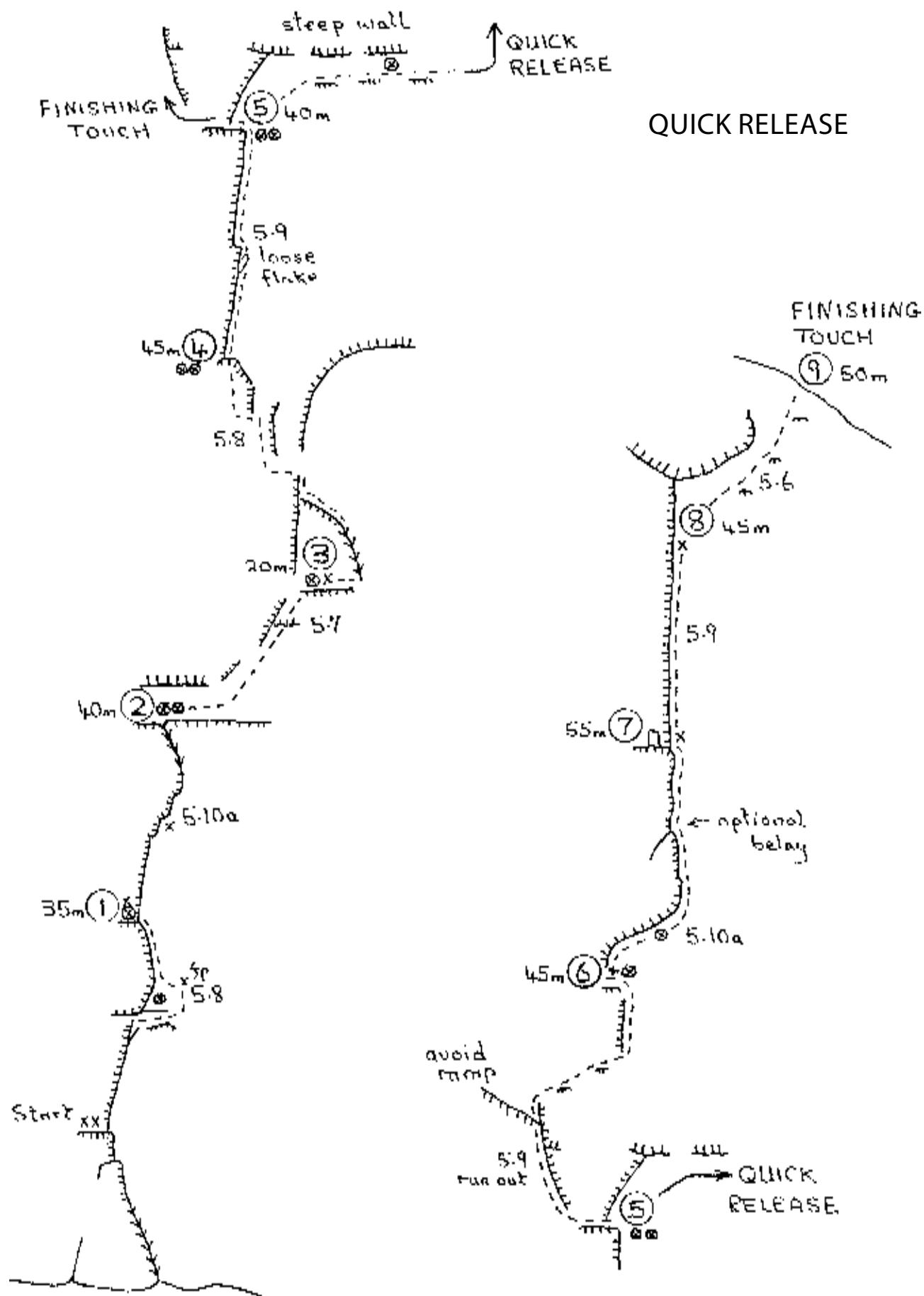
- 1) 35 m, 5.8 Climb the corner to an overhang, traverse right on a ledge past a bolt and make a difficult step up onto the wall. Climb the wall (piton), then move back to the corner and follow it to a bolt and piton belay.
- 2) 40 m, 5.10a Climb the corner with increasing difficulty past an overhang and then up more easily to a ledge (bolt belay).
- 3) 20 m, 5.7 Move out right past the roof and climb a broken slab up and right. Go up over an overhang formed by wedged blocks to a ledge and bolt belay.
- 4) 45 m, 5.8 Climb the short groove on the right and then follow a ramp-like break diagonally left back into the main corner. Go up for a short distance and then move across left to small ledges. Continue up for about 12 m to below a short right-facing corner. Traverse left 3-4 m on a small ledge, then climb up steeply to a bolt belay at the bottom of a long corner.
- 5) 40 m, 5.9 Climb the corner past a loose flake, which has somehow survived the test of time, to a blocky ledge on the left.

**Finishing Touch:**

- 6) 45 m, 5.9 From the left side of the ledge, climb a groove for about 5 m and then step left on to the face. Move up and back right into the groove and continue up past a ramp on the left. Climb up and right to a small corner and go up this to a single-bolt belay at a ledge on the left below a big corner.
- 7) 55 m, 5.10a Climb the wide corner/roof above past a bolt and up into a groove. Follow the groove to the main corner (the pitch may be split here) and go up this to a good ledge on the left.
- 8) 45 m, 5.9 Good climbing leads up the corner to a piton belay below the upper roof.
- 9) 50 m, 5.6 Move up and right on a slab below the roof and go up to the top.

**Original Finish:**

- 6) 45 m, 5.7 Go up right to a terrace and walk right along this to the end. Move up over a bulge and belay in a small bay.
- 7-9) 130 m, 5.5 Continue up by a groove, then exit rightward to gain sight of the top. Continue up and right on easy rock to the ridge.



## VIAGRA POINT

This name has been given to a portion of the long band of lower cliffs that extends westward from below Ha Ling Peak and curves around to the south, overlooking Whiteman Pond. Viagra Point is a steep yellow cliff located at the highest point of the cliff bands, below a heavily wooded area at the top. It is visible straight ahead where the approach trail turns right across the open slope and heads directly toward the lower cliffs. Much of the cliff is very steep with rotten-looking yellow rock, but toward the right-hand side there are a number of discontinuous, light gray streaks indicating water seepage and better rock. Two climbs have been done, one of which goes up the centre of the gray streaks and finishes near a rotten overhang on the left side of a rib, and another that moves farther right and climbs an obvious black wall in the upper portion of the cliff to finish through a break in a large, curving band of overhangs. Both climbs start just to the right of a single tree growing close to the face and about 10 m left of the edge of the forest. They have had only a few ascents and the rock is reportedly a little dirty from water seepage. The right-hand route, Dirt Diggler, may still require some cleaning. The information given below and in the topo is incomplete but is the best that could be extracted from the first ascensionists. The best descent is probably to rappel the routes, although there is a break in the cliff band a long way to the right.

### Cunning Linquist 100 m, 5.11a/b

E. Dumarac & P. Farrell, 1998

This is the left-hand route that climbs an attractive, gray-streaked groove in the central part of the face.

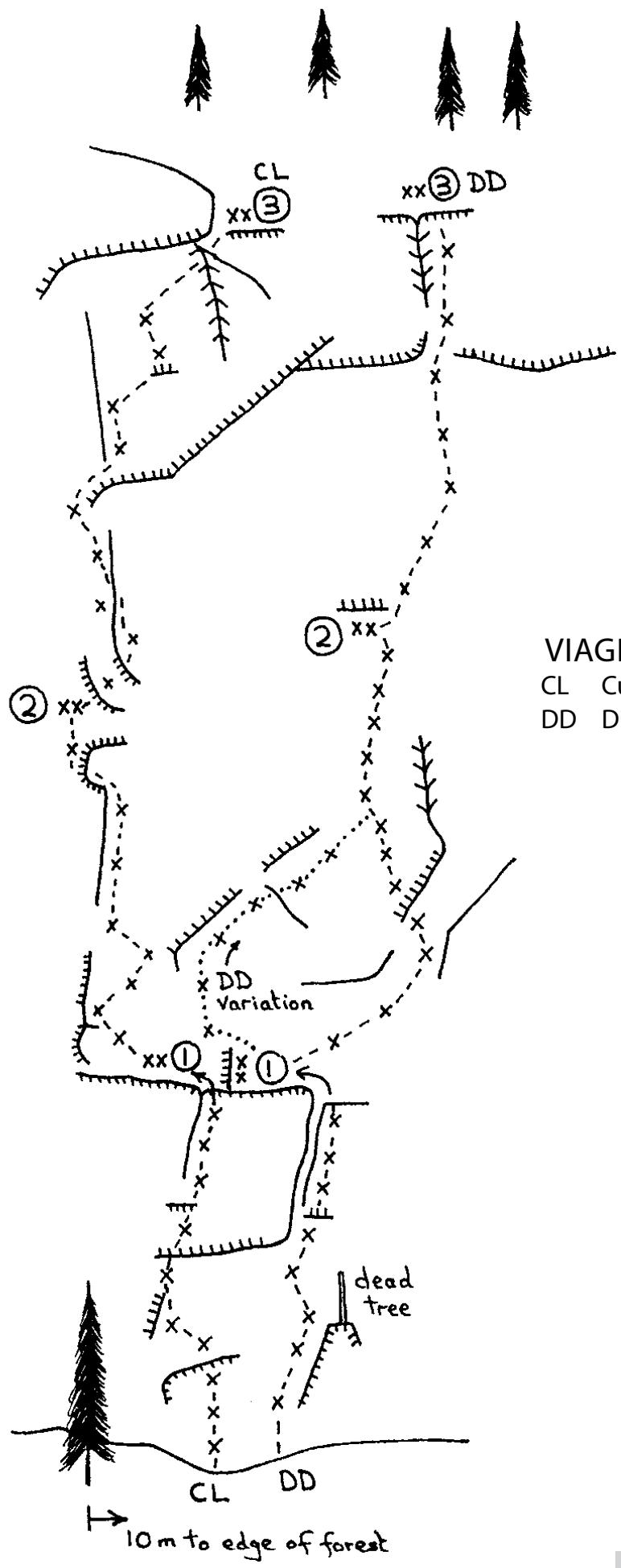
- 1) 30 m, 5.11a Beginning immediately right of the tree, follow the bolts up and left over an overlap and up to a good ledge and bolt belay.
- 2) 35 m, 11a/b Move left and climb the shallow, gray-streaked groove moving left at the top to a bolt belay above a roof.
- 3) 35 m, 5.10d Climb up past a roof and into a corner on the left side of the upper rib. Exit right from this to a fixed station on the upper ledge system.

### Dirk Diggler 105 m, 5.11b/c

P. Farrell & E. Dumarac, 1999

This route goes up the black wall to the right of Cunning Linguist and exits through a break in the upper roof line.

- 1) 30 m, 5.10b Climb up toward a prominent dead tree on the right and then move left and go up a short, wide crack to a bolt belay on a good ledge just right of the Cunning Linguist belay.
- 2) 40 m, 5.11c or 5.11b The recommended route moves up and right from the belay and goes up past some short corners to a fixed station below a roof on the upper black wall (5.11c). Alternatively, a slabby wall below a right-slanting roof line left of the belay may be climbed to join the same pitch higher up (5.11b).
- 3) 35 m, 5.10c Continue up the black wall to the break in the overhangs, climb through this, and go up a short groove to a fixed station on the upper ledge system.



### VIAGRA POINT

CL    Cunning Linguist  
DD    Dirk Diggler

# Whiteman Crag

Whiteman Crag is situated at the south end of Whiteman Pond, just above the road. The rock is generally quite poor and despite its ease of access, the crag now receives little attention. All the existing routes are gear climbs and presently, only the underestimated Die Young, Stay Pretty is worth the hike up the scree. However, there are sections of rock in the central area that may merit a closer look. Bolt protection would probably be necessary as the rock is quite compact and difficult to protect. With additional cleaning and perhaps the installation of one or two bolts, some of the existing routes could become worthwhile. The Spray Lakes road is fairly busy and any cleaning of routes should be done with caution as the road is directly below. Presently, a small selection of pitons is required even on the easy routes.

## Approach

Park at the wide pull-out by the lake as for Kanga and EEOR. As the crag is seldom visited there is currently no clearly defined trail. The best approach is to start below and left of the large rib of Pushing Forty at the left end of the crag and follow a small ledge diagonally up right into the scree gully. Continue across the gully to a good trail that diagonals up right and either follow this past two electrical transmission poles to reach the lowest part of the cliff, down and right of Original Route, or go directly up past the right side of a huge boulder set in the scree to the starts of South Corner and Original Route.

## Descent

Most of the climbs exit left and descend a boulder-covered slope directly to the road. There is a considerable risk of dislodging sizeable boulders down onto the road and this descent should be made with caution. If the crag becomes more popular, perhaps a safer trail could be made down through the trees farther left.

### Pushing Forty 95 m, 5.8

J. Blench & B. Elkin, July 1983

The route follows the ridge at the left end of the crag and is mainly straightforward except for one short, but poorly protected, section of 5.8. Start just above the base of the ridge on its right-hand side in the scree gully.

- 1) 30 m, 5.5 Move out left to a groove that leads to the ridge (piton). Continue up grooves to a belay in a scoop on the right, below and left of two triangular overhangs.
- 2) 10 m, 5.4 Climb the groove between the overhangs to a ledge.
- 3) 25 m, 5.8 Scramble down ledges to the left for about 10 m and climb a steep slab, trending left, just before the end of the wall. Belay on the large ledge above.
- 4) 30 m, 5.6 Move back to the ridge and climb up to an overhang. Bypass this on the right and continue up a crack to large ledges.

**Descent** Either scramble down ledges on the left and descend to the road or climb two easy pitches to the top of the crag and then descend to the left.

**South Corner 50 m, 5.7**

T. Auger & J. Blench, July 1983

This is the obvious corner between the wall on the right side of the ridge and the main face.

1) 30 m, 5.5 Move out left from the base of the corner and climb up to a wide crack. Follow this back right to rejoin the corner and belay on a small ledge about 5 m below the large roof.

1 alt.) 25 m, 5.7 Climb directly up the corner (pitons required).

2) 20 m, 5.7 Climb up to the roof, traverse left and go up a corner to ledges on the left.

**Descent** Either scramble down ledges on the left and descend to the road or climb two easy pitches to the top of the crag and then descend to the left.

**Live Now, Pay Later 95 m, 5.9**

J. Blench & D. Congdon, June 1983

Start below a steep, slabby corner just right of South Corner. Pitons can be seen on the right wall of the corner.

1) 50 m, 5.8 Climb the right wall of the corner (pitons) to small ledges on the right. These may also be reached by climbing the groove that slants up left from near the start of Original Route (see topo). Continue right and up on easier ground to a small belay below a prominent roof (rappel station for Die Young, Stay Pretty).

2) 25 m, 5.9 Climb up left to a break on the left side of the roof (piton) and move up with difficulty past a second piton to ledges above.

2 alt.) It is possible to split pitch 1 at the top of the corner and then climb the groove on the left that leads directly to the break in the roofs. However, this is loose and not well protected.

3) 20 m, 5.7 Move right and climb the wall to the large ledge at the top of Die Young, Stay Pretty.

**Descent** As for Die Young, Stay Pretty (see topo).

**Original Route 80 m, 5.7**

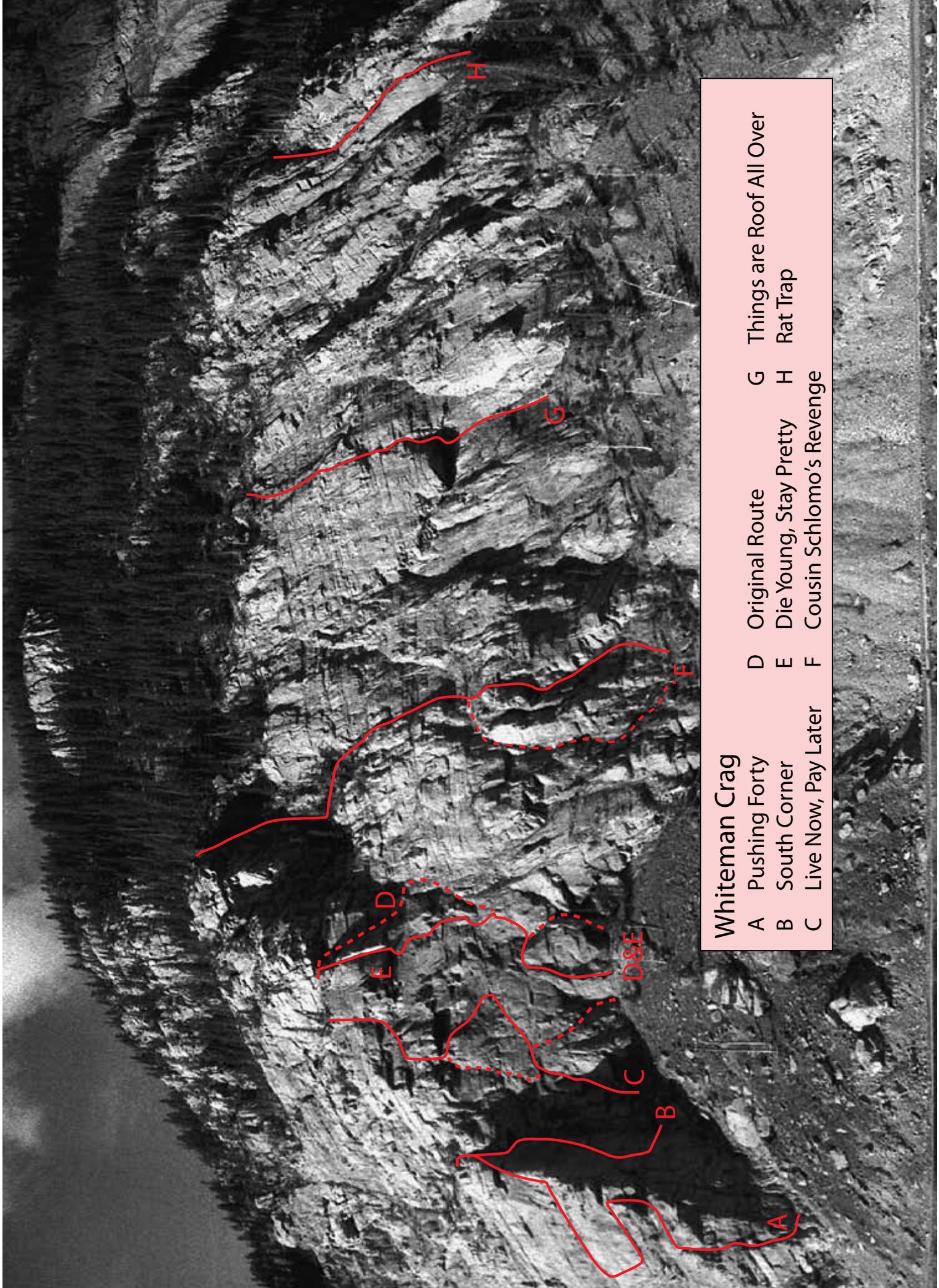
B. Greenwood & party

This climb has an interesting first pitch up a steep, well-protected crack. Higher up the climbing is run-out and more fixed protection is required.

Start at the right side of a small pillar to the left of an overhung bay.

1) 30 m, 5.7 Climb to the top of the pillar and continue up a steep crack on the right (piton). Climb past a block and into a short groove. At the top of the groove, traverse right (bolt) and down to a scoop. Cross the scoop and move up and right to a bolt and flake belay.

1 alt.) The scoop near the top of pitch 1 may be reached by climbing directly out of the



Whiteman Crag

A	Pushing Forty	D	Original Route
B	South Corner	E	Die Young, Stay Pretty
C	Live Now, Pay Later	F	Cousin Schlomo's Revenge
		G	Things are Roof All Over
		H	Rat Trap

overhung bay to the right of the normal start (5.10, R. Mitten, 1979).

- 2) 25 m Climb a short, easy pitch to a belay level with a horizontal break leading left below roofs. Pitons are presently required for the belay but pitches 2 and 3 can be easily combined.
- 3) 25 m, 5.7 Climb up left into an open corner slanting left and follow this to ledges round the edge of the buttress and the fixed station of Die Young, Stay Pretty.

Descent As for Die Young, Stay Pretty (see topo).

**Die Young, Stay Pretty\*\* 75 m (90 m), 5.10b**

S. Scott & M. Sawyer, July 1979

Bulky Boys Finish: T. Jones & R. Felber, 1998

This excellent but neglected climb moves left from the top of the first pitch of Original Route, climbs a slabby wall and exits up a steep, technical corner. The corner is very sustained but well protected by fixed pitons and the pitch is one of the best in the valley. Recently, a short, bolt-protected pitch has been added at the top.

- 1) 30 m, 5.7 Climb pitch 1 of Original Route.
- 2) 45 m, 5.10b The lower part of the pitch is easy (5.7) but run-out. Move up left and then back right and go up past a flake to a small groove capped by a bulge. Move left and up onto a slab (bolt) and then go left to a bolt in a short wall directly below the upper corner. Make awkward moves left and climb up and back right into the groove. Launch up the groove and continue with difficulty past a number of pitons to where it finally eases. Belay on the large ledge above (fixed station).
- 3) 15 m, 5.10a The Bulky Boys Finish climbs a short wall 8-10 m left of the station, just right of a large tree. Climb a solid slab immediately right of the first bolt and then move left to the second bolt. Continue up and right past a third bolt to a fixed rappel station (two pitons).

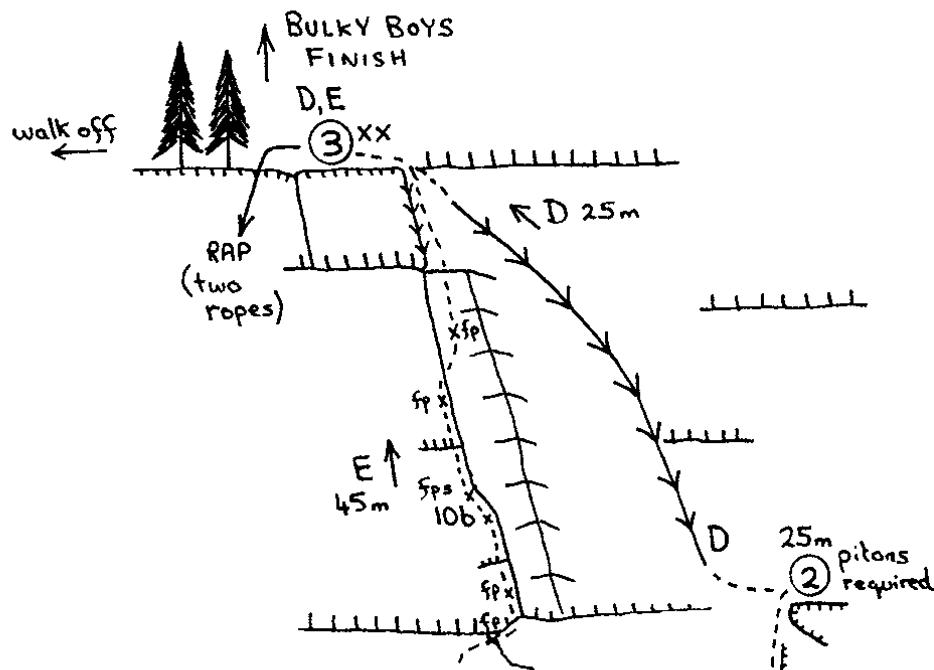
Descent The route can be rappelled using double ropes (see topo) or an easy descent can be made down ledges to the left. The latter requires caution near the bottom as loose rock is easily dislodged onto the road.

**Cousin Schlomo's Revenge 100 m, 5.7**

I. Witten, A. Savannah, S. Greenberg and Anon

This loose route begins in the right-hand of two broken corners in the rounded buttress right of the overhung bay. In the words of the first ascensionists, one of whom requested anonymity, "Schlomo suffered for 2000 years—this is his revenge!"

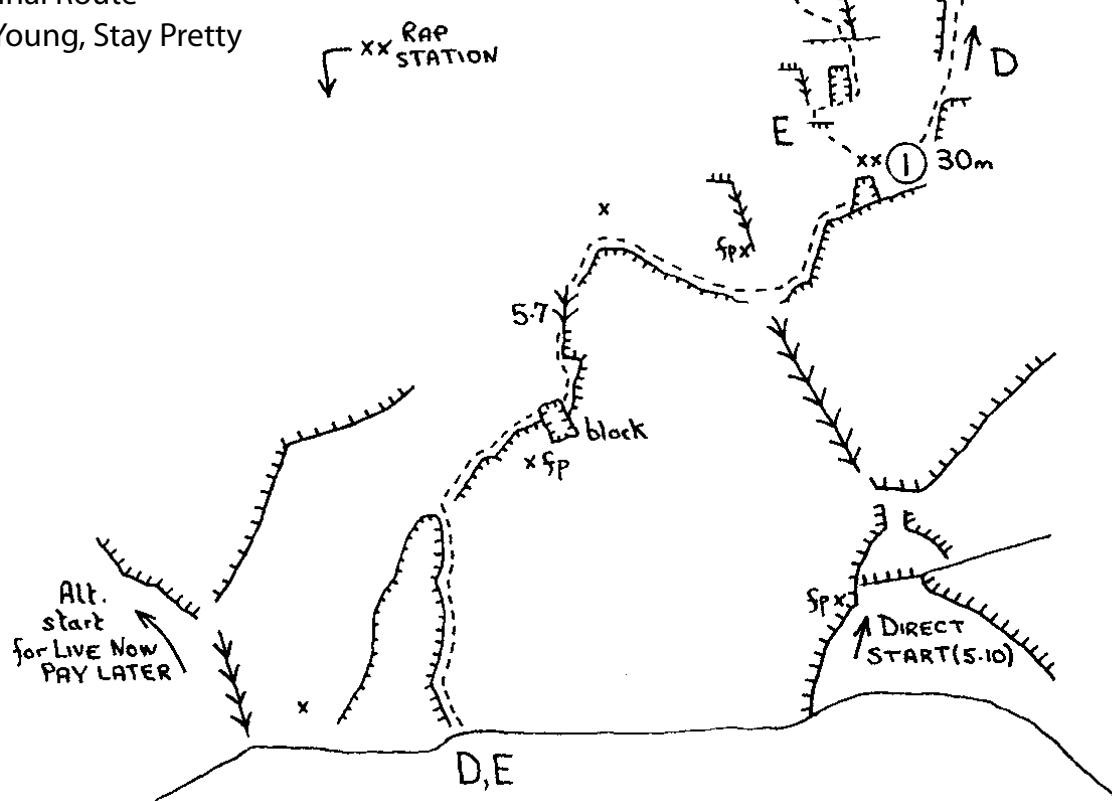
- 1) 45 m Move up left on easy ground and then climb a steep slab to gain a crack on the right. Follow this through a break in the overhangs to a ledge.
- 1 alt.) The broken corner and chimney on the left can be climbed to reach the ledge at the top of pitch 1.
- 2) 35 m Move right and climb a shallow corner to a large treed ledge on the left.
- 3) 20 m, 5.7 Follow the obvious groove on the left to the top.



### DIE YOUNG, STAY PRETTY

D Original Route

E Die Young, Stay Pretty



Student's Route 95 m, 5.8

J. Blench & K. Klassen, July 1982

Located to the right of the rounded buttress is a prominent roof at about one-third height. Student's Route goes up the left wall of the corner to the end of the roof and then follows a diagonal line up the slabby wall above (not shown on photograph).

- 1) 30 m, 5.6 Climb the slab on the left of the corner past a fixed bolt and piton anchor to the roof. Move left to a belay near the end of the roof.

2-3) 65 m, 5.8 Diagonal up left following a faint groove system.

Things Are Roof All Over 75 m, 5.9

G. Powter and S. Wood, June 1983

This climbs the right side of the roof on Student's Route and continues directly up the face above.

- 1) 25 m, 5.6 Climb the first pitch of Student's Route and belay immediately below the roof.
- 2) 50 m, 5.9 Gain a finger crack that traverses right across somewhat loose flakes under the roof (piton) and go right until a good crack is reached. Climb the crack and then move left and continue up a groove system to the top.

Rat Trap 45m, 5.9

J. Kaandorp & S. DeMaio, July 1985

Located at the far right-hand end of the crag is a large, left-slanting corner. Rat Trap climbs the left-hand of two cracks in the right wall. The corner itself appears to have been climbed but no information is available.

- 1) 20 m Climb the crack to a ledge.
- 2) 25 m Climb the left-slanting corner/ramp above.

# KANGA CRAG

This is a steep, relatively featureless cliff situated to the right of Whiteman Crag at the head of the shallow valley that leads up to the base of EEOR. In the centre of the main wall, which is almost 150 m high, a prominent, slender flake extends about to one-third height. This is the line of California Dreaming that was climbed in 1983 and was the first route done on the face. The crag saw little further development until the early '90s when Mark Whalen began exploring the lower and outer regions of the crag and established a number of sport routes. Many of these are of good quality, but the crag is seldom visited compared to the nearby Grassi Lakes area that is very popular. Recently some short aid routes have been added at the base of the lower walls. These are a result of the somewhat eccentric explorations of Greg Cornell, the most notable being Chief Chiniki Burgers with its associated challenge for a first free ascent.

There are few natural lines on Kanga Crag and the rock is quite compact and friable. Future development is likely to be limited to sport climbs and there are large sections of rock, notably on the main wall, where interesting, multi-pitch routes may be done. Some of the existing routes have dubious glue-in bolt placements with loose hangers and inadequate top anchors. Hopefully, these will be retrofitted to meet higher standards. Overall, the crag has a lot to offer and with a few more routes and some additional work, Kanga Crag could become a fine climbing area.

## Approach

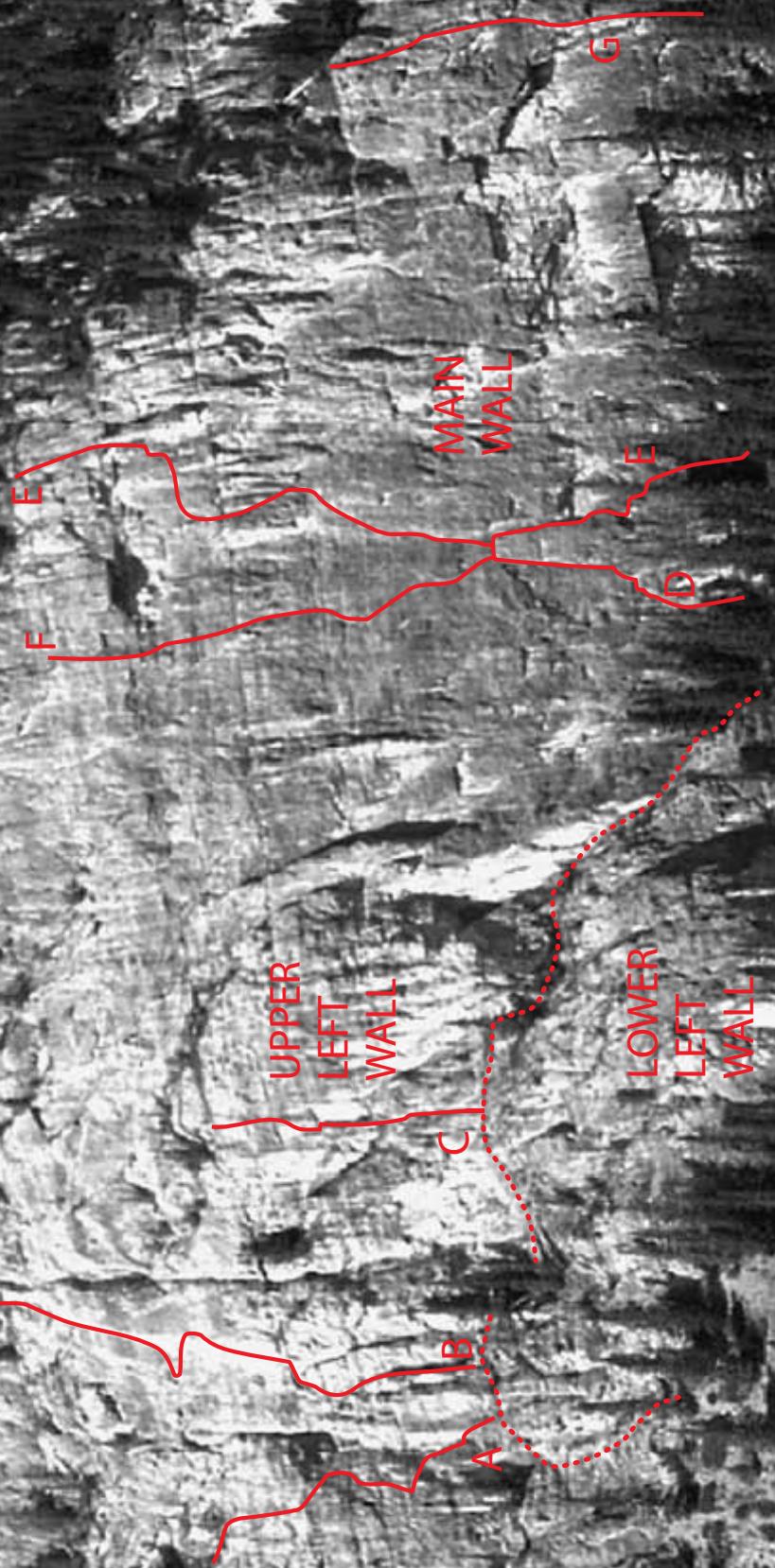
The approach is the same as for EEOR. From the parking area at the wide pullout on the west side of Whiteman Pond, follow a trail that begins slightly to the north and goes up a sparsely treed, shallow depression directly toward the cliff. The main trail leads to the right end of the main wall near the route Rocky and Me. The left side of the crag may be reached by following a side trail that branches off left after climbing a gap between two large boulders. It goes up past the right side of a huge boulder set in the scree and then diagonals up left to reach the base of the Lower Left Wall near the large overhung bay of Chief Chiniki Burgers.

## Descent

At present, only two climbs, Silver Surfer and California Dreaming, go to the top of the cliff and the descent for each is given with the corresponding route description. The remaining climbs have fixed anchors and descent is made by rappel.

The cliff can be divided into three sections, the Main Wall with the obvious flake of California Dreaming at its centre, and the Upper and Lower Left Walls that are separated by a long, treed ledge. The accompanying photograph shows the three areas and two topos show the climbs. Most of the routes are sport climbs and the topos indicate the number of quick draws required. For gear and aid routes, details are given in the text.

**Kanga Crag**  
A Damien's Island  
B Silver Surfer  
**C Mysterioso**  
**D Canadian Cookie**  
**E California Dreaming**  
**F Rockies Reality**  
**G Rocky and Me**



## Lower Left Wall

An interesting feature of the Lower Left Wall is an overhung bay capped by a huge roof and sealed off from the elements by a wall of large trees. It is situated at the lowest point of the crag where the left-hand trail reaches the base. The bay has two short climbs, the most striking of which is the aid route Chief Chiniki Burgers. This follows a wildly overhanging corner up to the left side of the roof and because of its sheltered nature, it could probably be climbed in any conditions at any time of the year!

### Chief Chiniki Burgers 23 m, A2+

G. Cornell & G. Macrae, July 1996

This aid route climbs an impressive, arching corner that leads up to a two-bolt belay immediately left of the roof. Both sides of the corner overhang drastically and the right one is blank. The climb features tied-off knife blades, rurps and top-step moves off bat hooks. The first ascensionists offered free burgers to anyone who could free-climb the route, and the authors feel quite safe in adding free pints at The Drake.

- 1) 23 m, A2+ Climb over the lower bulge to a bolt on the left and then make tricky rurp and hook moves up and right to reach the first bolt on the blank wall. Move up into the corner and continue up with increasing difficulty past two more bolts. Above the top bolt, tied-off knife blades and a short tension traverse right lead to a bat hook placement in a small black streak. A wild, top-step move off this allows the two-bolt hanging belay to be reached. For anyone trying to free climb the route, it is worth noting the bolts are hand drilled and relatively short!

Note A new aid climb goes up the arete on the right to the same anchor. Pitons and two bolts are in place. (Rez Dogs, A2+, G. Fletcher, February 2000.)

### The Brik Shiite Shak 18 m, 5.10d

G. Cornell & C. Abbott, September 1996

F.F.A.: G. Cornell & D. Marra, August 1997

This was originally a companion aid route to Chief Chiniki Burgers, but it has now been climbed free. It goes up a short, open-book corner that begins about 10 m up the cliff below the right-hand side of the huge roof. Begin about 6 m right of Chief Chiniki Burgers, below and slightly left of the open book, at a thin, vertical crack.

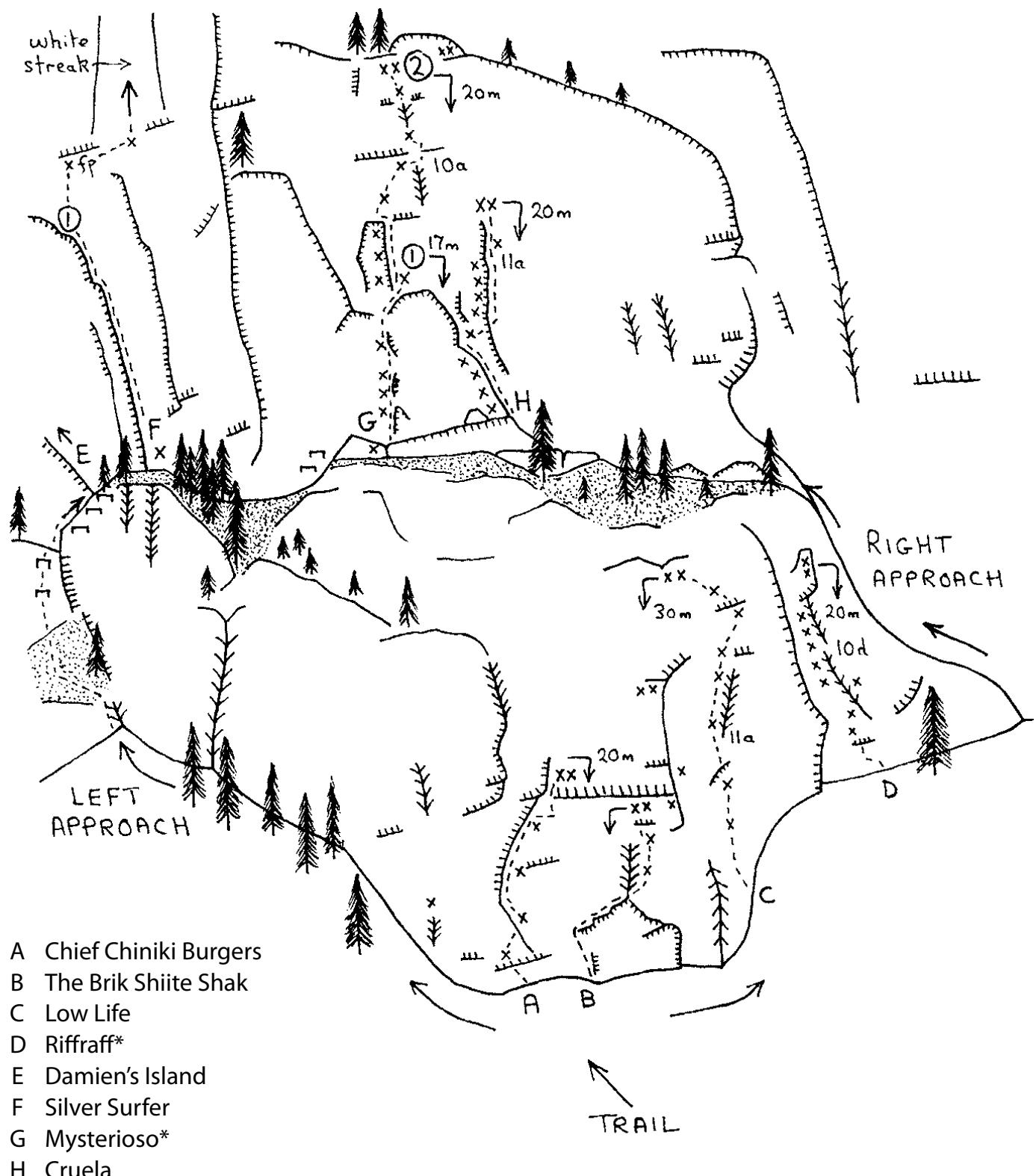
- 1) 18 m, 5.10d Climb the crack exiting left over a bulge (5.10a), and then move up right to the base of the smooth open-book corner. Climb this with difficulty to a two-bolt belay below the roof. The base of the open-book corner can also be reached from the right via a short, right-facing finger crack (5.6) about 5 m right of the normal start.

Above the right side of the huge roof, a shallow overhanging groove arches up and right through steep yellow rock. The line extends down to the right-facing finger crack noted as an alternative start for Brik Shiite Shak. Three bolts are in place (see topo), but the route is incomplete.

### Low Life 30 m, 11a

M. Whalen, 1995

## KANGA LEFT SIDE



Located on the right edge of the overhung bay is a small grey rib. Low Life starts a few metres up the slope to the right of this, moves out left and continues up a shallow groove set in a band of yellow rock. At present, the first bolt has not been installed and the lower section is run-out.

- 1) 30 m, 5.11a Climb out left to the rib and go up blocky grey rock (5.8) to a bolt high up. Move up into the groove and go up this past a bulge at the top. Continue up and left past the left side of a small roof and then go across left to a fixed station.

Riffraff\* 20 m, 5.10d

M. Whalen & W. Rockafellow, June 1992

A short distance up the slope from Low Life is a prominent, shallow gully, and to the right again, a small wing of rock extends rightward to the base of the main cliff. Riffraff begins about 5 m right of the gully and climbs a shallow, stepped groove system that slants up leftward. Above this it goes over a bulge to chains below a small pinnacle. The climb is well worth doing but is exposed to rockfall from parties traversing along the break above to the upper wall.

## The Upper Left Wall

The Upper Left Wall can be reached by scrambling around either side of the Lower Wall to gain a long ledge system that separates the two. The ledge system is quite exposed and care is necessary, not only for your safety but also to avoid dislodging loose rock onto the lower climbs. For the latter reason, the left-hand approach is preferred as the right-hand option traverses above the climbs Low Life and Riffraff.

To access via the left-hand approach, follow the path up and left from the bay of Chief Chiniki Burgers staying below the cliff for 60-70 m to an easy, left-facing gully near the high point of the trail. Go up this and follow a short, and unnecessary, via ferrata (or iron way) up and then right onto the main ledge system. The right-hand approach is convenient to use from the base of the main wall and is exposed but similarly quite straightforward.

Damien's Island 60 m, 5.7

G. Cornell, G. Macrae & G. Fletcher, 1997

This short gear route goes up a wall on the left side of a shallow gully above the left-hand approach chimney. It begins at a tree a few metres above the last rung of the via ferrata.

- 1) 25 m, 5.6 Move up left into the gully and go up to a piton below a small overhang. Hand traverse left below the overhang and make a difficult mantleshelf move onto a ledge. Move up and right to a two-bolt belay at a ledge.
- 2) 35 m, 5.7 Climb up to a flake and then go right and up across a steep wall to a bolt. Traverse left past an overhang to reach slabs and go up to a bay of trees on the left.

Rappel the route to descend.

Silver Surfer 100 m, 5.7

G. Macrae & G. Fletcher, June 1996

This interesting route climbs the obvious white waterstreak on the upper slabs. The slab pitches are not well protected and additional fixed protection would make the climb more enjoyable for its grade.

The climb is best reached via the left-hand approach. From the top of the via ferrata, continue up and right for about 15 m to a prominent right-facing corner with a wide crack at the back. Belay from a Petzl ring bolt, low down on the right.

- 1) 20 m, 5.7 Climb to the top of the crack (gear to two inches) and belay about 5 m below a small overhang beneath the upper slab.
- 2) 45 m, 5.6 Move up to the overhang (old piton) and then traverse right to a bolt at the base of the white streak. Go up left to a bay and then climb the right side of the white streak until a small overhang and good grassy ledge are visible to the left of the streak. Move across and belay here (fixed piton and good gear).
- 3) 35 m, 5.6 Traverse back right onto the streak and run the rope out for 18 m to a bolt below the lip or climb the left side of the streak (tricky placements) to reach the same point. Continue up to trees.

Descent Climb the fourth class gully above for about 60 m and then traverse off left to reach easy ground that leads back down to the base of the cliff.

Two sport routes climb the steep upper wall above a high point in the centre of the ledge system. To reach them using the left-hand approach, continue right past the corner of Silver Surfer for about 45 m, dropping down at first and then climbing back up again, to the beginning of a level section just beyond two steel rungs.

**Mysterioso\*** 40 m, 5.10a/b

M. Whalen, 1994

Mysterioso begins about 5 m right of the steel rungs, below a small pillar and short left-facing corner with a row of bolts on its left side. The climb is well worth doing despite its somewhat involved approach. The second pitch has an intricate and sustained crux sequence on excellent rock and the lower pitch makes an interesting 5.8 climb in its own right. Belay from a Petzl ring bolt in a lower slab below and left of the pillar.

- 1) 20 m, 5.8 Climb the corner on good holds moving slightly right at the top to below a steep section. Make a tricky move up left into a short, continuation corner and continue up easy ground above to a Petzl ring bolt below a steep flake-crack.
- 2) 20 m, 5.10a/b Climb the crack to the top of the flake. Step onto the wall above, and then make a steep sequence of moves up and right and then back left to reach good holds. Move up to the fixed rappel station.

**Cruela** 20 m, 5.11a

M. Whalen, 1994

Not much is known about this route and the grade given is approximate. From the start of Mysterioso, follow a higher ledge system rightward for 10 m to the base of a prominent, left-slanting corner. Follow bolts up the left side of the corner to a grassy area below a short chimney. Make a difficult move out right across a steep wall and continue up a rib into a shallow groove above.

Go up this with difficulty near the top and continue up over a bulge to a fixed station.

## The Main Wall

The most obvious line on the Main Wall, after California Dreaming, is a shallow, right-facing corner that begins about one pitch up the cliff, on the left side, and extends up to easy ground near the top. Two difficult sport routes climb the steep wall below the corner, one of which goes up to the base of the corner itself and the other to a prominent ear-shaped flake out to the right. Both climbs start at the same point, about 5 m right of the break between the Upper and Lower Left Walls, behind some large trees.

**Canadian Air\*** 50 m, 5.12a

M. Whalen, 1992

- 1) 25 m, 5.10d Follow a shallow, leaning groove for a short distance and then go up and right into a second groove that slants over left and forms a short corner higher up. Belay at the top of the corner at a good ledge on the left. The difficult moves are at the bottom where a convenient tree can be used for clipping bolts and resting—the grade of the climb depends on how much arbour-aid is used!
- 2) 25 m, 5.12a Climb the steep wall above, moving right slightly at first and passing two small roofs higher up, to reach a two-bolt belay near the base of the upper corner.

**Leave Your Hat On\*** 50 m, 5.12a

M. Whalen, 1992

This interesting route offers good face climbing although glue has obviously been used in some areas owing to the friable nature of the rock.

- 1) 25 m, 5.11b Climb to the third bolt on Canadian Air, traverse a few metres right and go up past a small roof to a short groove that leads up to a ledge and bolt belay.
- 2) 25 m, 5.12a Move right and go up over a small roof and then trend left to a bolt belay on top of the ear-shaped flake.

**Canadian Cookie** 45 m, 5.9+

B. Spear & J. Josephson, June 1996

This climbs the wide crack on the left side of the California Dreaming pinnacle and starts about 12 m right of the previous routes. It is one of the more unique climbs in the Bow Valley and seems more at home in Yosemite than the Canadian Rockies. The left side of the pinnacle offers an unmistakable wafer thin flake requiring layback, chimney, jamming and off-width skills all in one pitch. It is a bit loose by sport climbing standards, but there is nothing too outrageous unless you're worried about the entire flake collapsing (just kidding). A couple of bolts help protect the wider section. A set of Camalots to #5 with an extra #4 or equivalent is required. Try not to look through the flake too often.

## California Dreaming\* 125 m, 5.10b/c

D. Morgan & C. Perry, August 1983

This classic gear route has had a number of complete ascents, but most parties climb only the first pitch to the top of the flake. The remainder of the climb is loose in places and still has some big blocks on the final pitch. Until recently it was the only climb going to the top of the Main Wall and deserves further cleaning and perhaps more fixed gear. Presently, a small selection of pitons is useful.

Start about 10 m right of the flake, below a shattered, left-facing crack that slants up left to a small overlap with a bolt immediately above.

- 1) 45 m, 5.10b/c Climb the crack for about 12 m and then go left to the bolt. Step down left and make a hard move over the overlap to reach a hand traverse leading left to the crack on the right side of the flake. Climb the crack to a bolt belay at the top of the flake.
- 2) 30 m, 5.8 Move up and right to a rotten groove and climb this (piton) to easier ground. Follow a series of good holds diagonally right across the wall to an overhang below a short, left-facing corner. Climb the corner and continue up shattered rock on the left until it is possible to move right round an arete to ledges and a bolt belay.
- 3) 50 m, 5.9 Climb the groove above the belay and move up left with difficulty to ledges. Continue up the wall, trending back right slightly, to a bolt. Make a long traverse right to a second bolt below and left of an overhang that caps a prominent chimney on the right. Move up and hand traverse right into the chimney. Climb the overhang and continue up and left to trees.

Descent Scramble up through trees to join the alternative descent route from EEOR that leads steeply down right to reach the main approach trail to EEOR at the start of Spud Wall.

## Alberta Reality\*\* 130 m, 5.11b

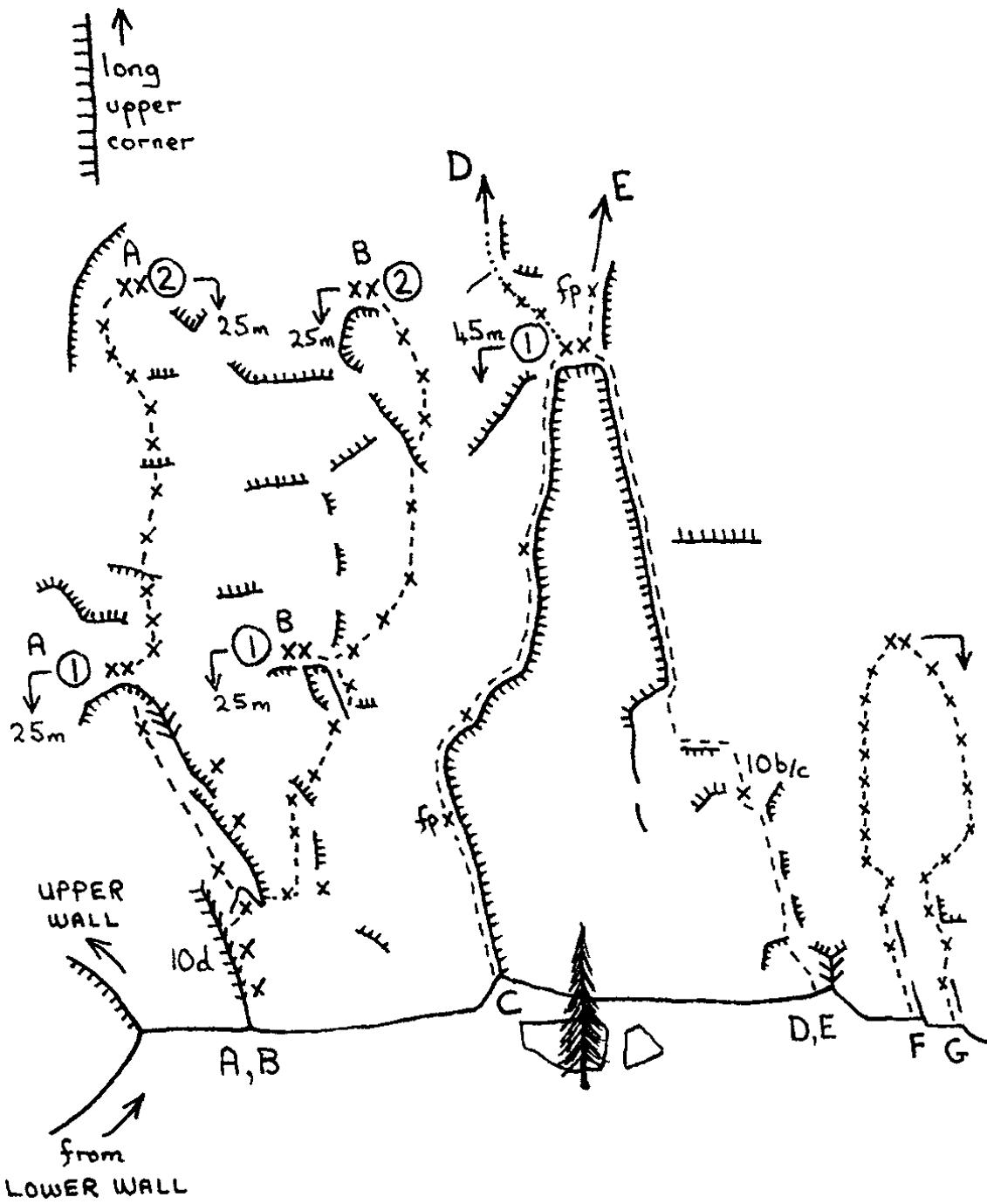
G. Powter, B. Wyvill & S. Wyvill, July 2000

This bolted line moves out left from the top of the California Dreaming flake and continues up to ledges near the top of the crag. Gear is required for the first pitch only. Descent can be made by rappel using 55 m ropes.

- 1) 45 m, 5.10b/c Climb the first pitch of California Dreaming to the top of the flake.
- 2) 30 m, 5.11b Move out left and up from the flake following the bolts. Higher up sustained, difficult climbing leads diagonally left to a shallow groove and fixed anchor (eight bolts).
- 3) 55 m, 5.10a Follow the bolts (16 in all) left slightly at first and then straight up the wall to fixed anchors at a ledge near the top.

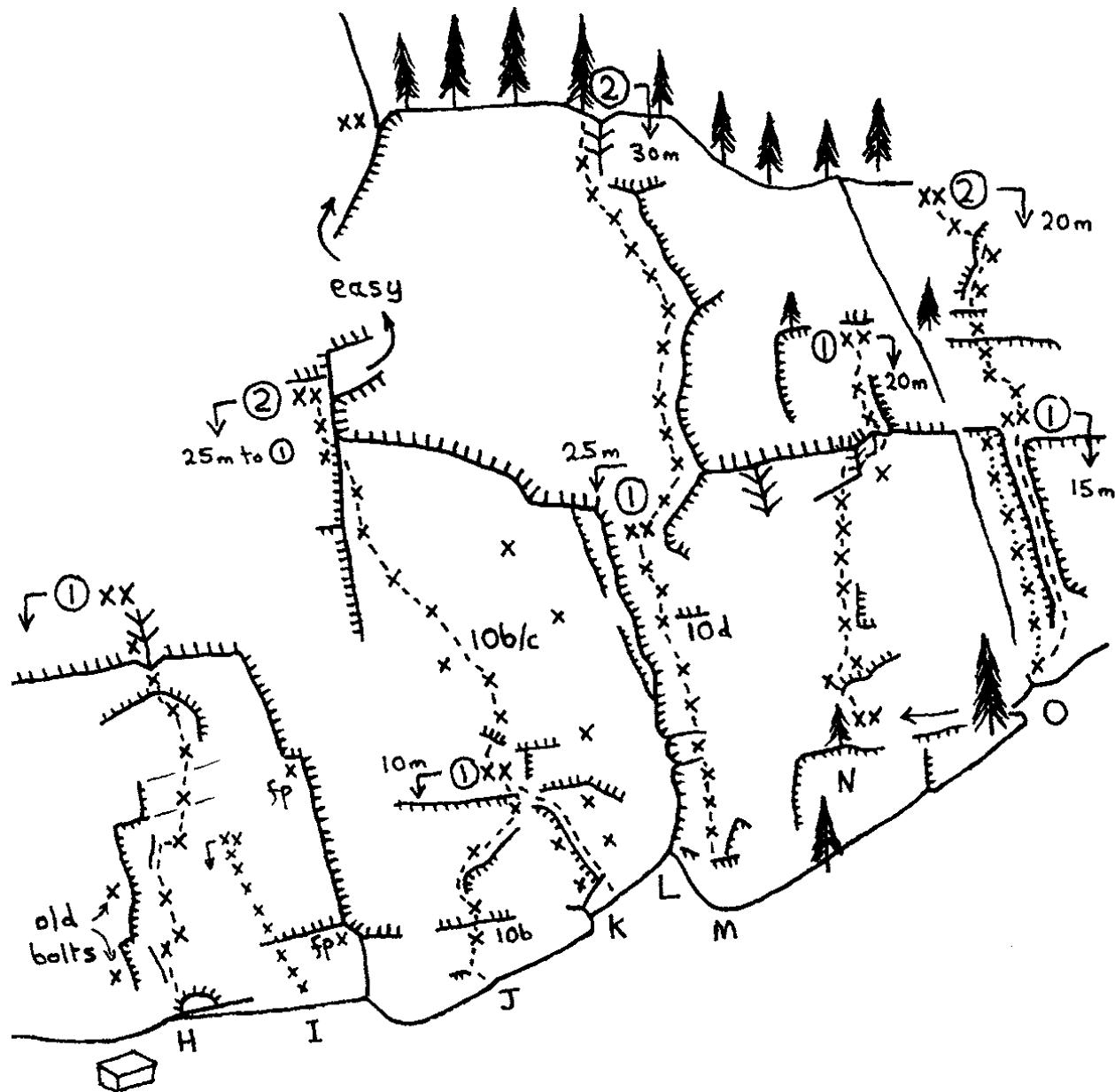
A few metres right of the start of California Dreaming are two sport routes that go up to the same fixed anchor. The one on the left is Roo'd Awakening (G. Powter & B. Wyvill, 5.11b, 11 bolts, July 2000). The one on the right is Turette's Syndrome (B. Wyvill & G. Powter, 5.11a, 10 bolts, July 2000).

Beginning about 20 m right of California Dreaming is a large, overhung bay of yellow rock with a prominent boulder at the base of the cliff, roughly in the centre. On the right, the bay is bounded by an overhanging, left-facing corner that has some fixed gear and has probably



## THE MAIN WALL

A	Canadian Air*	5.12a	50 m
B	Leave Your Hat On*	5.12a	50 m
C	Canadian Cookie	5.9+	45 m
D	California Dreaming*	5.10b/c	125 m
E	Alberta Reality**	5.11b	130m
F	Roo'd Awakening	5.11b	30 m
G	Turette's Syndrome	5.11a	30 m



H The Final Battle	A3+	small pitons and hooks
I Silent Partner	A0	bolt ladder
J Fowl Play	5.10b 10 m	
K Superior Cackling Chickens*	5.10b/c 35 m	
L Project		
M Rocky and Me**	5.11a 55 m	
N Rub Me Right**	5.10b 20 m	
O Toucha Toucha Me	5.8 or 5.10a 35 m	

been climbed using aid. In the centre, the line of overhangs that caps the bay is cut by a very distinctive V-notch. Two old, self-drill bolts, just left of a series of left-facing flakes, mark an early on-sight attempt by Dave Morgan to climb up to the notch. It was finally reached by an aid route called The Final Battle that, perhaps significantly, has no associated prize for a free ascent. There may be just enough gear in place to launch up the wall using Dave Morgan's start and the aid route's finish—or maybe not?

### **The Final Battle 35 m, A3+**

G. Cornell & J. Milburne, November 1996

The climb begins at a small cave, directly below the notch in the overhangs. It features a wide range of aid techniques, but principally bat hooking, and looks like great entertainment for a cold/rainy day. From the left edge of the cave, bat hook up to a thin, left-slanting crack and follow this to a short bolt ladder. From the third bolt, use "various body weight placements" to gain a thin vertical crack up on the left and then move horizontally right to a bolt. Bat hook up and right on very steep rock to a bolt, and then go back left slightly past two more bolts to a square block directly beneath the V-notch. Make awkward moves up past the block (bolt) to reach a second bolt on the left side of the notch. Continue up the short crack in the notch to the fixed station and register.

Note A practice bolt ladder has recently been installed between Final Battle and the left-facing corner at the right-hand side of the bay (Silent Partner, A0, 9 bolts, G. Cornell, February 2000).

Located to the right of the overhung bay, around the edge of a small buttress, is an area of steep, slabby rock with a large, left-facing V-corner at its right-hand side. The slab is closed off by a large band of overhangs with a prominent break at its left end.

### **Superior Cackling Chickens/Fowl Play\* 35 m, 5.10b**

M. Whalen & W. Rockafellow, 1992

C. Perry, I. Perry & T. Freisen, August 1998

The original climb, Superior Cackling Chickens, follows an obvious diagonal line across the slab. It starts on the right at an easy, left-slanting corner, goes up to a small ledge system at about one-third height and ends in a shallow groove a short distance below the left-hand break in the roofs. A variation called Fowl Play goes directly up the steep wall to the ledge and extends the second pitch to a fixed station above the break. The second pitch offers some thin slab climbing on good rock and the climb is well worth doing, particularly with the Fowl Play variations.

- 1) 10 m, 5.5 Follow the easy corner past three bolts to a bolt belay at the ledge.
- 1 alt.) 10 m, 5.10b Climb the steep wall directly below the belay, moving right higher up and then left to the belay.
- 2) 25 m, 5.10b Follow the bolts up and left across the slab to join the shallow groove higher up. The crux is just above the third bolt that is out to the left and is awkward to clip. Either

finish at a large ring bolt in the groove or make awkward moves up and left around the roofs to a chained station above.

Easy ground leads up to a large, treed ledge on the side of the cliff, but it has not been cleaned or fixed and is not worth the bother.

### Project

An incomplete aid route moves right from part way up the first pitch of Superior Cackling Chickens and climbs the slabby wall just left of the big corner to a station below the roofs. It may be possible to free climb the line, but at present only a few widely spaced bolts are in place.

### Rocky and Me\*\* 55 m, 5.11a

M. Whalen & W. Rockafellow, 1992/95

This interesting climb goes up the prominent, low-angle rib at the right side of the slabby wall and continues up, via a short chimney and wall above, to the large treed ledge. The first pitch has one short, difficult section over a bulge but the second pitch is more sustained.

- 1) 25 m, 5.10d Climb the right side of the rib, making a difficult move over a bulge at about two-thirds height. The crux requires a steady leader as the protection bolt is low down and a fall would end on the low-angle slab below.
- 2) 30 m, 5.11a Move up right and climb an awkward left-facing chimney. Step left and make a difficult series of moves up and left following a shallow groove. Move left again around an overhang and climb a short groove to the large, treed ledge.

Descent Instead of rappelling the route, it is possible to traverse right to the back of the large, treed ledge and make a short rappel from a tree to easy ground above and right of the first belay of Toucha Toucha Me. A ledge system and easy down-climbing lead across to the scree slope below Pit Bull Terr-EEOR.

To the right of Rocky and Me the crag curves up the slope and becomes smaller and more broken. Located about 60 m from the rib is a small, inset corner with a row of bolts up the wall immediately to its left. The corner is climbed by the route Toucha Toucha Me.

### Rub Me Right\*\* 20 m, 5.10b

M. Whalen & W. Rockafellow, 1992

This enjoyable route climbs the slabby wall, down and left of Toucha Toucha Me. It follows a series of layaway edges up a shallow rib and then moves right and climbs a short corner that breaks through the upper band of overhangs. The start is reached by traversing out left on ledges, beginning a few metres below Toucha Toucha Me, behind a tree.

- 1) 20 m, 5.10b Delicate climbing up the rib leads to a shallow bay below the overhangs.

Traverse steeply right and make a committing move up to the base of the corner. Climb the corner, which is difficult at first, to chained anchors.

**Toucha Toucha Me\*** 35 m, 5.8

M. Whalen, 1992

This makes a good beginner's route and can be used to practice gear placement. The bolted wall on the left is described as an alternative first pitch.

- 1) 15 m, 5.7 Climb the corner using either gear for protection or by clipping the row of bolts on the left wall.
- 1 alt.) 5.10a Climb the wall following the bolts using the edge of the corner.
- 2) 20 m, 5.8 From the chained station, make a difficult move up onto lower-angled rock (5.8) and then follow a shallow corner, moving up and left at the top (5.7) to chained anchors.

**Pit Bull Terr-EEOR** 25 m, 5.9

G. Macrae & G. Cornell, August 1996

This route, which is not shown on the crag topo, climbs a slanting, clean-cut groove on the right-hand side of a large, yellow overhang, about 25 m up the slope from the corner of Toucha Toucha Me.

Climb easy rock to a bolt in a shallow scoop below the point of the overhang and then make awkward moves up and right to gain a thin finger-crack in the groove. Continue up the groove past two pitons (small gear required) to a fixed station at the top.



## Spud Crag

Farther up the slope, Kanga Crag becomes more broken and finally ends at the easy scree ledges used to descend from the top of the cliff and from EEOR. Immediately beyond the descent route, and about 160 m up from Pit Bull Terr-EEOR, is Spud Crag, a small, featured wall of good rock with a prominent horizontal break at just over half height. The crag is about 40 m long and ends at a left-facing corner/gully with a dead tree high up. It was developed by members of the Yamnuska Mountain School, primarily for teaching purposes, and hence the appalling puns in the route names. Most of the climbs end at the horizontal break although there is some interesting rock above. This is evident in the crag photograph that is very foreshortened.

**Green Eggs and Yam** 25 m, 5.6

C. Miller & L. Stanier, 1993

The route follows a discontinuous groove line set in a small rib near the left end of the crag and makes a good beginner's climb. A second pitch has been climbed that moves left and climbs a slabby wall to ledges, but presently only the belay is fixed.

Start by a dead tree near the left end of the crag.

- 1) 25 m, 5.6. Move up to a scoop on the right and go up a short corner to a ledge on the rib. Continue up the groove above, moving right at the top to a fixed station at the horizontal break.

**I Yam What I Yam** 50 m, 5.7

D. Stark & P. Vidalin, 1993

This climbs the wall immediately right of Green Eggs and continues to the top of the cliff via a prominent left-facing corner.

- 1) 25 m, 5.9 Make a tricky bouldering move up over the lower bulge and continue up to the left end of the long, horizontal roof. Climb the wall above heading for a short V-corner and either finish via this (5.8) or go up diagonally right to the horizontal break (5.9).
- 2) 25 m, 5.8 Climb the short groove directly above the belay on good holds and continue up easier ground to the base of the left-facing, exit corner. Make an awkward move up into this and climb the left wall to a bolt belay at the top.

**Yamorama\*** 25 m, 5.10b/d

D. Stark & P. Vidalin, 1993

The grade of this interesting route depends very much on the height of the climber as the crux involves a long reach over a blank bulge near the bottom. Start a short distance right of the previous route, below the widest point in the long horizontal roof near the base of the cliff.

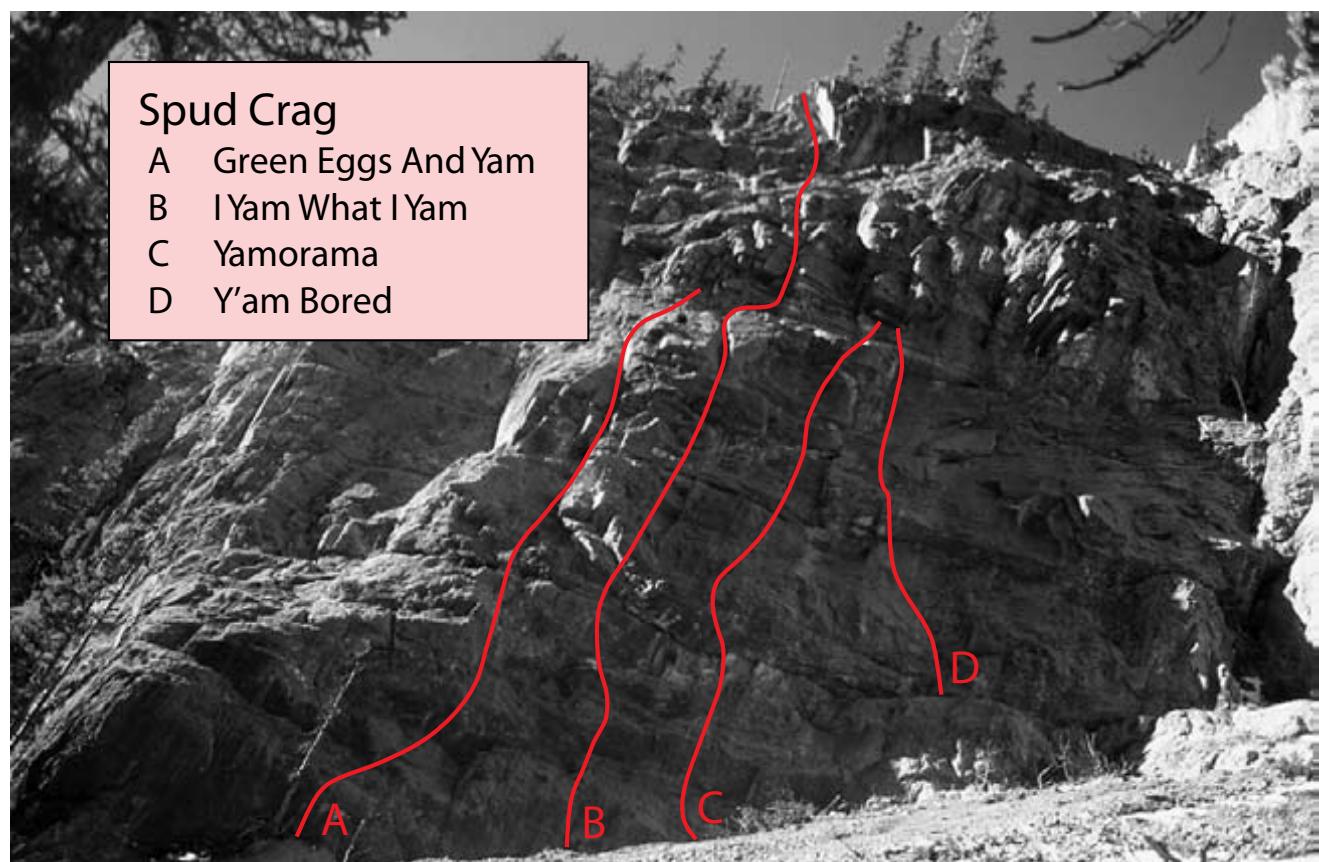
Climb easy rock to the roof and then lunge or casually stretch up to a good layaway hold above the bulge. Move up onto the slab and continue more easily to a short left-facing corner. Climb the steep wall on the left and make another long reach to finish at the horizontal break.

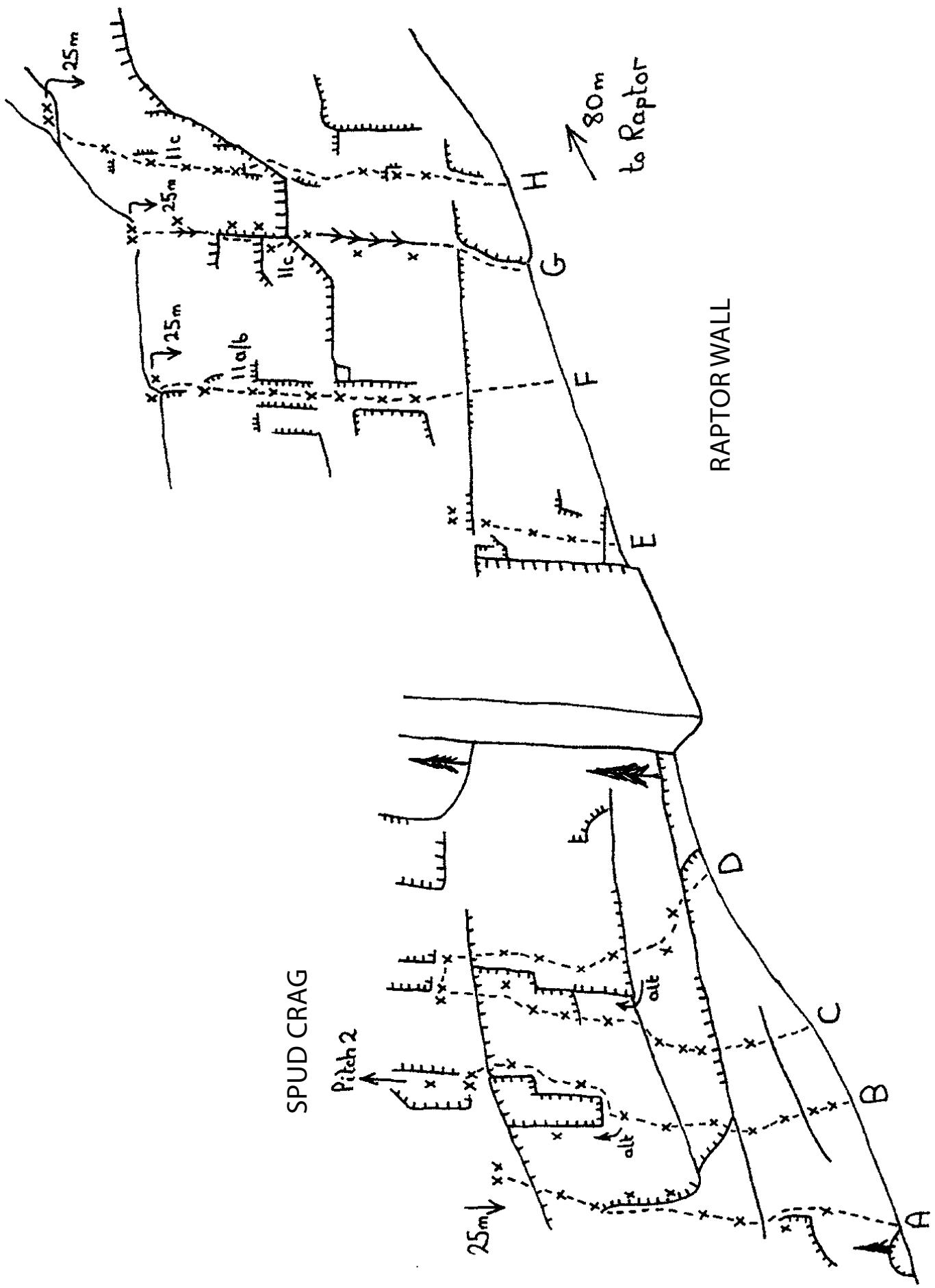
**Y'am Bored** 25 m, 5.7/9

J. Buszowski & T. Kirwan, 1993

This climb attempts to find interesting rock near the right end of the cliff, but does not manage to do so.

Move up to a small ledge below a short, left-slanting corner (bolt with no hanger). Make a few moves up the corner and then go left (5.7) up a slab to an overhang. Either climb over this with difficulty onto the slab above (5.9) or traverse left to an easy, left-facing corner that leads up to the same point. Continue up a short corner, exiting left onto the break.





## SPUD CRAG

A	Green Eggs and Yam	5.6
B	I Yam What I Yam	5.7
C	Yamorama*	5.10b/d
D	Y'am Bored	5.7/9

## RAPTOR WALL

E	Little Corner Climb	5.5
F	Shark Attack*	5.11a/b
G	Battle of the Bulge	5.11c
H	Blue Wonder Power Milk	5.11c

## Raptor Wall

Beyond the left-facing corner that marks the upper end of Spud Crag, a flat 50 m-wide buttress sticks out slightly from the main cliff and ends higher up the slope at a right-facing corner. The section of cliff beyond the right-facing corner is called "Raptor Wall." It extends up the slope for about 80 m and then curves around at the top to the rounded buttress climbed by the route Raptor. Immediately to the right again is the large gully of Fumbles and the beginning of the main cliff of EEOR.

A prominent feature of Raptor Wall is a curving band of overhangs that extends along almost its entire length at about half height, paralleling the slope and becoming much larger toward the upper end. Four climbs have been done to date, three of which are located near a large, square-cut roof where the band of overhangs begins to curve sharply up and right (see right side of photograph).

### Little Corner Climb 15 m, 5.5

This short teaching route goes up the slab immediately right of the right-facing corner that marks the beginning of Raptor Wall. It ends after three bolts at a fixed station at a bulge.

About 30 m up the slope from the right-facing corner, a small groove and a shallow open-book corner above lead up to the left side of the large, square-cut roof. The next three climbs are located in this immediate area.

### Shark Attack\* 25 m, 11a/b

G. Golovach & A. Sheppard, 1994

This interesting climb begins about 5 m left of the small groove below a square-edged yellow pillar in a bulging, black-streaked wall. Climb easy ground up and left to a short right-facing slot and go up this to the base of the pillar. Layaway moves of the edges of the pillar lead to sustained climbing on the steep wall above.



Ian Perry climbing Shark Attack.

G. Golovach & A. Sheppard, 1994

Climb the small groove to the base of the open-book corner and follow it past three bolts to the left side of the large, square-cut roof. Make desperate moves up around the roof and continue up very steep rock past two more bulges to a short groove near the top. Move up left to chained anchors.

Blue Wonder Power Milk 25 m, 11c

B. Firth & J. Josephson, 1997

The climb starts below a short, left-facing corner about 10 m right of the previous route. Climb the slabby left wall of the corner and continue up to the right side of the large, square-cut roof. Move up left onto the steep wall and go directly up this, moving right past a small overhang near the top to a fixed station.

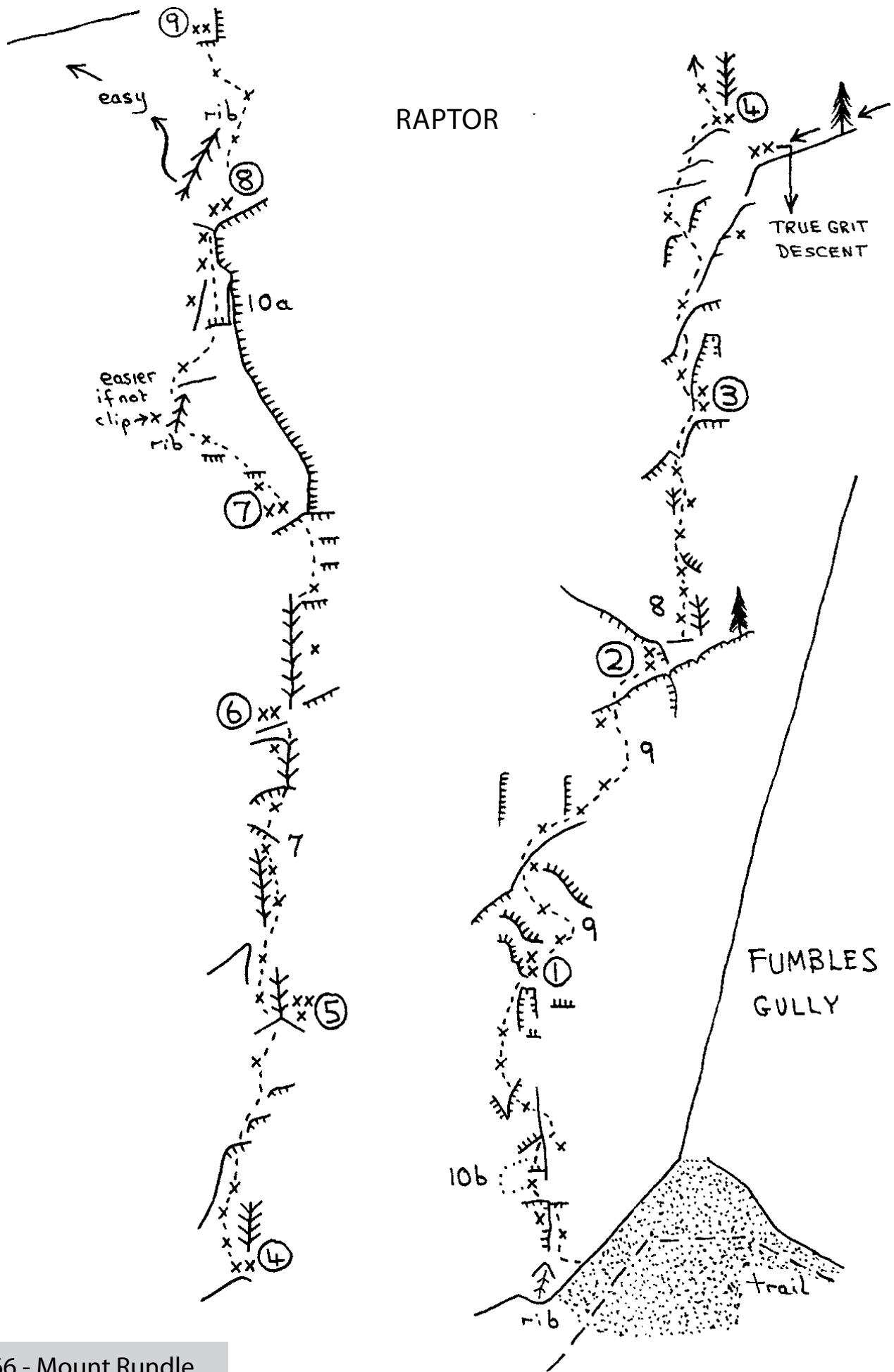
Raptor\*\* 220 m, 5.10b

M. Whalen & D. Bartrom, 1994

This popular, multi-pitch sport route has some excellent climbing although the middle section is relatively easy and lacks interest. The climb is entirely protected by bolts and it makes a good introduction to the longer climbs. It begins up a small rib immediately left of the Fumbles gully and climbs a wide, open corner system in the upper part of the cliff (see photograph in the EEOR section).

Start on the left-hand side of the scree cone below the Fumbles gully to the right of a small rib. The first pitch is the crux and can be climbed either by moving directly over the bulge or by making a steep move left and down slightly from the bolt to gain good holds that lead up and back right into the scoop above. The latter seems easier for tall climbers and a number of extravagant grades have been assigned to the direct version past the bolt. The second pitch has some excellent slab climbing and leads up to the more broken middle section of the route where some of the pitches may be combined for a faster ascent. Pitch 8 is awkward. The third bolt draws the climber too far left around a rib and is best left unclipped, and the crux section in the chimney is far from obvious and the bolts seem misplaced. There is a bolted pitch 9 although the obvious finish is to move left around a rib and wander off up and left on easy ground, as shown in the topo. The bolted pitch (5.4) goes straight up above the belay past two bolts and then angles over to the left past two more bolts to a fixed station below easy terrain. Extra care is necessary near the top not to dislodge loose rock, particularly using the former finish.

Descent Use the alternative descent route from EEOR (see next section) that drops down from the ridge and joins the approach trail just below Spud Crag. It is possible to rappel the route with a single 50 m rope but this is not recommended. Not only is the climb often congested with parties trying to make upward progress, but retrieving the rope is likely to generate rockfall.



# EAST END OF RUNDLE (EEOR)

EEOR is a long cliff, nearly 500 m high, situated on the opposite side of Whiteman Gap from Ha Ling Peak. Three huge, right-slanting, ramp-like corners are the most easily recognized landmarks of the face. From left to right, these are climbed by Guides' Route, Balzac and MacKay Route. The quality of the rock is very variable but in some areas it is unusually good. Naturally occurring rockfall is more frequent, however, than on most other local cliffs because of a large snowfield that forms above the cliff and continues to contribute melt water until well into the summer. A cornice often exists early in the year and there has been at least one close call involving its collapse. Considering its proximity to Canmore and favourable aspect, the cliff has seen little development. Fortunately, the summer of 1998 saw renewed interest in the cliff and the addition of several big lines. A number of projects are currently underway and in the next few years EEOR's interesting features and, in many places, excellent rock will likely produce many worthwhile new climbs of all styles.

## Approach

Park on the west side of Whiteman Pond at the wide pullout a few hundred metres south of the dam and follow a trail that begins slightly to the north and goes up a sparsely treed, shallow depression directly toward Kanga Crag. The main trail leads up past the right end of Kanga and continues up steep scree slopes following cliff bands to the left end of EEOR. For Raptor and the True Grit area it is best to stay on the trail beneath the cliffs all the way to the base of the climbs, but for Reprobate and climbs farther north, a small trail diagonals right from below Spud Crag to join the trail that runs beneath the main face across to the north ridge. Guides' Route and climbs farther north can also be reached via a faint trail that climbs the wooded ridge opposite the dam and then ascends the scree slopes directly to the base of the cliff.

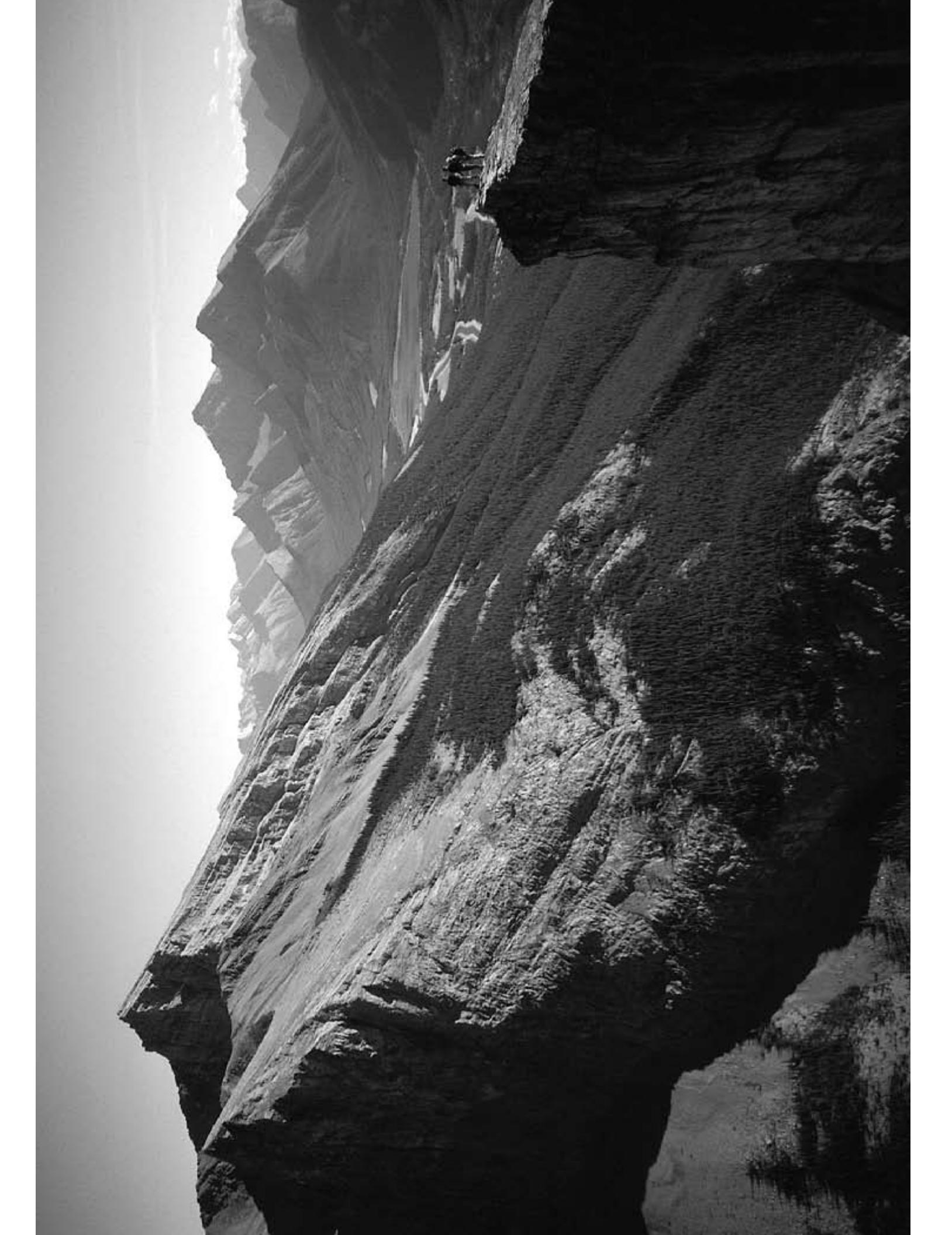
## Descent

To reach the road, the easiest route follows the top of the cliff south over scree and alpine meadows down to a nearly level treed ridge. A good hiking trail runs along the ridge (leading up to the first summit above EEOR) and this may be followed down to the Spray Lakes road, reaching it near the tunnel in the diversion canal. An alternative descent that may be used to reach the base of the cliff is to cut down left where the ridge first levels off and then rises slightly. A flagged trail goes down treed slopes toward the top of Kanga Crag and then angles over left through easy cliff bands to join the approach trail at the lower end of Spud Wall, about 200 m below the main face. Extra care is necessary in the lower section to avoid dislodging loose rock that may fall onto the approach trail directly below.

## Fumbles 450 m, 5.7

M. Dahlie & P. Smith, July 1980

This route follows the large, loose gully at the beginning of the main cliff. The gully is now used



as an alternative descent route from the True Grit area and few people, if any, would want to do it as a climb. However, the upper pitches could be used to reach the top of the cliff as a continuation of the True Grit climbs.

The climb ascends the lower gully and then continues up a second gully to gain a large basin at about half height. Above, the route can be varied, but aims generally for a scree basin on the left below the exit chimneys. The top is then reached by following the chimneys that slant up to the left, and a large overhang is avoided by a short detour on to the face.

### Lucky Dog 80 m, 5.9/10a

P. Giguere & J. Racette, September 1997

This two-pitch route climbs to the top of a pinnacle on the right wall of the large amphitheatre in the upper part of the Fumbles gully. The wall is actually the left side of the headwall above the True Grit area and the climb could be used to extend any of those routes. At present, it goes only to the top of the pinnacle, but a project called The Leash continues partway up the wall above and should be completed to the top in the near future.

The route was originally done using gear but bolts have now been added to the second pitch that climbs a wide crack. A standard rack is still required and a #4 cam is useful for the second pitch. The rock is reported to be excellent.

Note When climbing this route or the upper part of the Fumbles gully extra care is necessary not to dislodge loose rock down the gully and onto the lower part of Raptor.

The climb may be reached either from the ledge system at the top of the True Grit area or more easily from partway up pitch 4 of Raptor. In the latter case, easy ground leads rightward to a slanting ledge system with small trees (rappel station—see Raptor topo) and then over to the Fumbles gully. Scramble up the gully to the base of a dihedral/ramp system on the right-hand side of the pinnacle.

- 1) 45 m, 5.8 Follow the corner to a two-bolt belay at a ledge.
- 2) 35 m, 5.10a Continue up the crack, which is difficult at first and becomes quite wide higher up. At the top of the pinnacle there is a two-bolt belay and rappel station.

Opposite: Climbers at the top of EEOR looking across at Ha Ling Peak and the Spray Valley. Photo Grant Statham.

# TRUE GRIT AREA

This is an area of steep, slabby rock at the extreme left end of the cliff. It is bounded on the left by the gully of Fumbles and extends to about two-thirds height where it ends at the base of a large, overhanging headwall. The quality of the rock is unusually good and the face offers some of the best steep friction-climbing in the area. The first route climbed was Geriatric, a traditional-style climb that is still worth doing. However, the two more recent sport routes, True Grit and Parallel Dreams, make better use of the rock and are justifiably popular. Recently, a fourth route, Econoline, has been added that has mixed gear and bolts.

## Descent

The four climbs end at a ledge system below the upper headwall and there are currently two ways to descend from this point. The climb True Grit is fixed for 25 m rappels with a short section of scrambling to the top of pitch 3 (see topo). The route is very popular, however, and recently extra stations have been added to minimize congestion. Two 50 m ropes are required when using the new stations, which are situated as shown on the topo (left of the fourth belay, up and right of the second belay, and on the wall to the right of the first pitch). A second means of descent is down the gully of Fumbles. This involves scrambling down to a ledge system that leads out right (south) past several small trees to a bolted station (see Raptor topo). A short rappel leads to the top of pitch 3 of Raptor and three more 25 m rappels reach the ground. When using this descent, extreme care is necessary to avoid dislodging loose rock onto parties climbing Raptor.

The headwall above the True Grit area is presently unclimbed, but a partially completed route begins up a steep corner just left of the edge, overlooking the Fumbles gully. Two pitches have been climbed and the route will probably be completed in the near future. Alternatively, the route Lucky Dog gives two more pitches farther left in the upper bowl of the Fumbles gully.

### Parallel Dreams\*\* 180 m, 5.11a

J. Jones & G. Zederayko, 1990

Parallel Dreams is a sport route, similar to True Grit, but has more widely spaced bolt protection. It is harder than True Grit both technically and mentally. Overall the rock is excellent but on pitch 2 and parts of pitch 4 it is cheese-grater rough and the consequences of a fall are unsettling. However, the bolt spacing is just sufficient to prevent anything worse than major skin loss.

Start as for True Grit by following the ledges out right to the small gully and then scrambling up and left to a bolt belay below a prominent, deep chimney.

- 1) 30 m, 5.10c/d Move up into the chimney and then out right on a ramp to an overhang. Make difficult moves up and right around this and continue up and slightly left to a semi-hanging stance.
- 2) 40 m, 5.10c Step left and climb straight up on viciously prickly rock to a small overlap. Turn this on the right and continue more or less straight up. Near the top of the pitch follow slabby rock to the right to avoid a loose groove on the left. Belay on the front of a large

### Raptor Wall

- A Raptor
- B Parallel Dreams
- C True Grit
- D Geriatric
- E Econoline
- F Lucky Dog

A

B

C

D

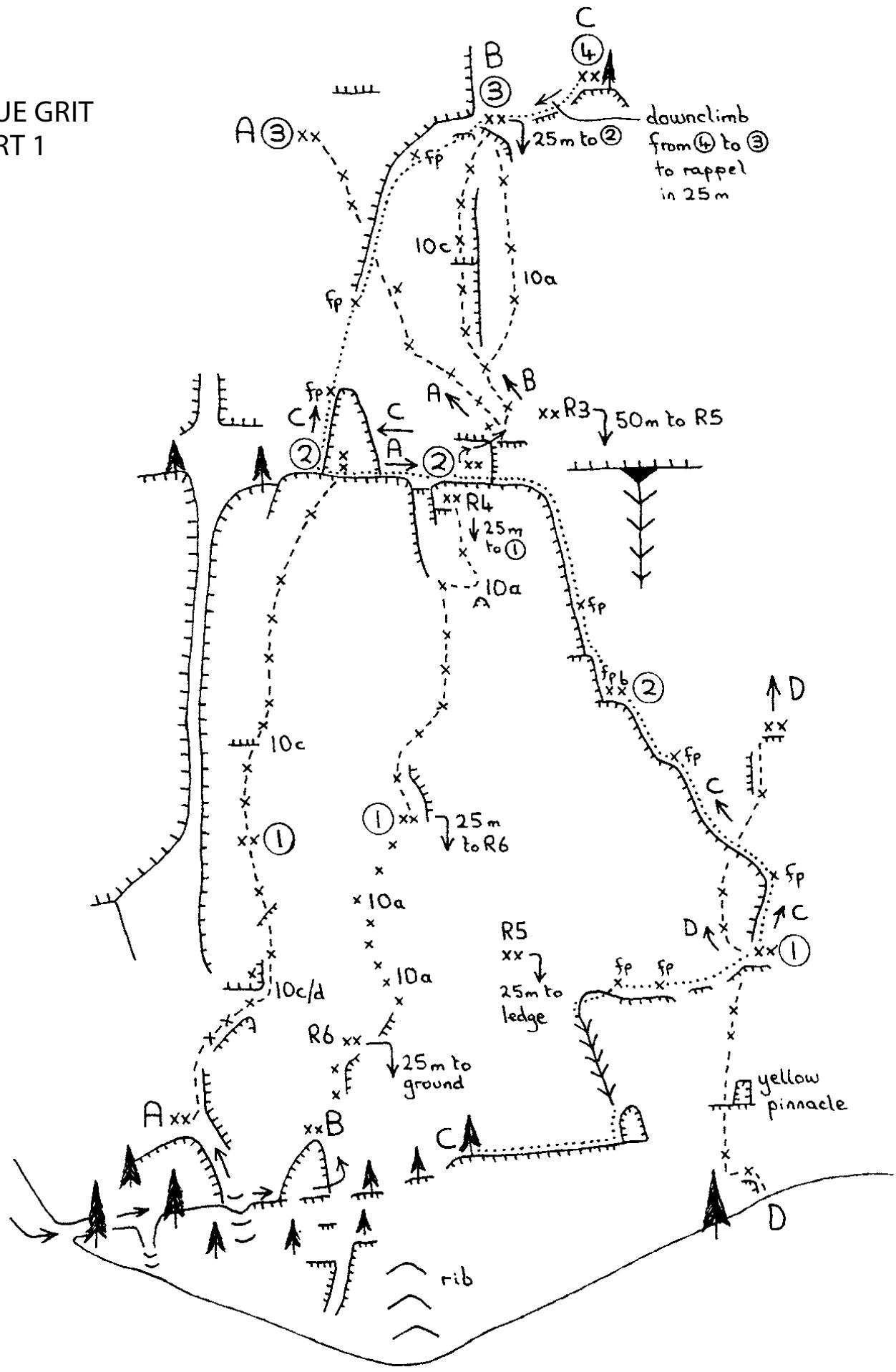
E

F

D&E

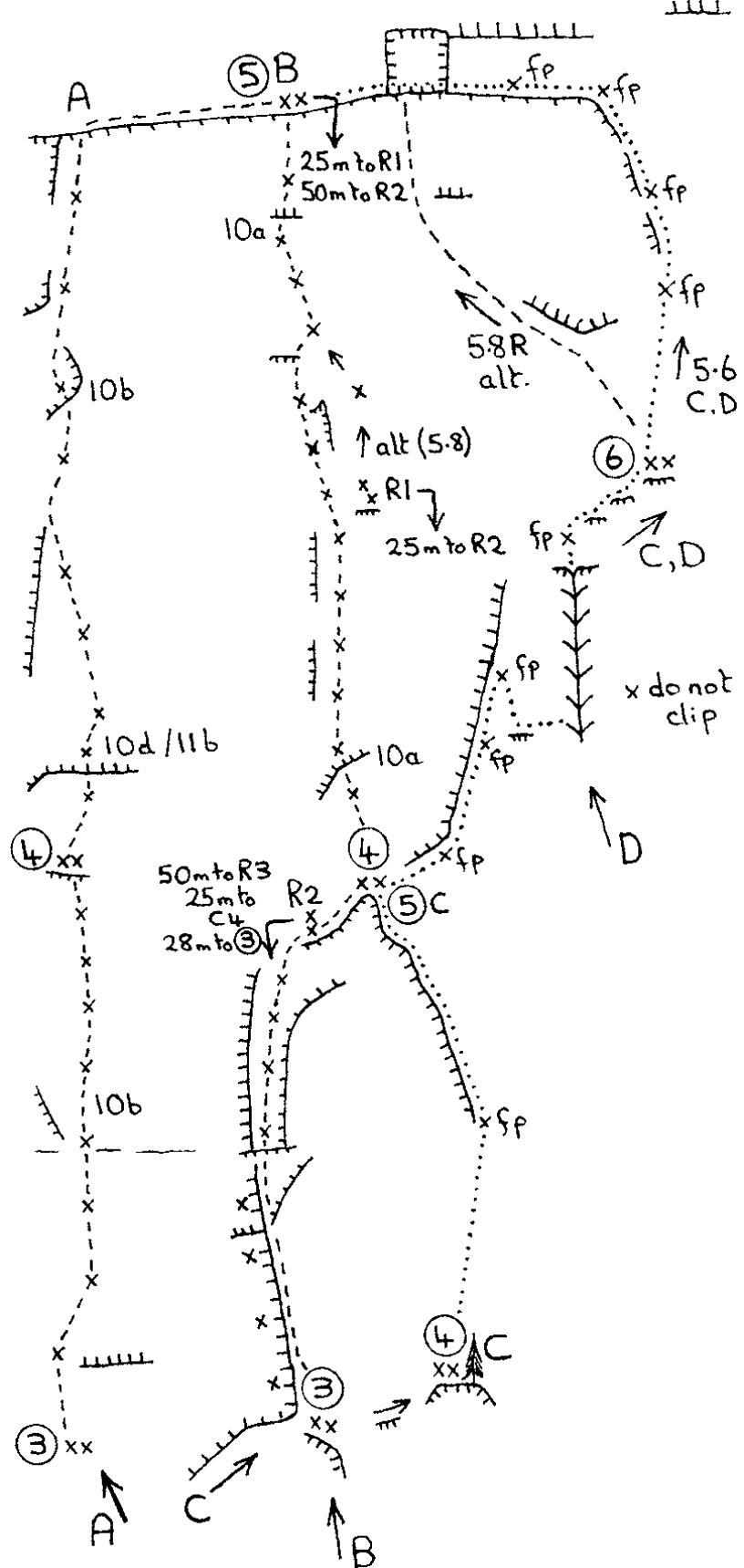
# TRUE GRIT

## PART 1



# TRUE GRIT

## PART 2



A	Parallel Dreams**	10d/11b
B	True Grit**	10a/b
C	Geriatric*	5.8
D	Econoline*	5.10a

pinnacle on the terrace that splits the face. This pitch is very sustained and the hardest on the climb overall.

- 3) 25 m, 5.10a Move the belay to the True Grit station at the right-hand end of the terrace and begin as for that route. After gaining the bolt at the small ledge immediately above and right of the belay, follow a line of bolts diagonally left across the face to the large, right-facing corner of Geriatric. Climb the wall on the left past two bolts to a semi-hanging belay.
- 4) 35 m, 5.10b Follow the bolts up and slightly right on prickly rock at first and then on more friendly ground to a bolt belay at a sloping ledge.
- 5) 50 m, 5.11a Move up and right to the overhang above and make a difficult step up over this on side pulls (the second bolt is hard to see from below). Continue up and slightly left into the top of a slabby corner. Exit this on the right and climb up to a small overlap. Make an awkward move left over this and continue more easily to the top.

**True Grit\*\* 170 m, 5.10a/b or 5.10c**

M. Whalen & S. Davis, 1990

True Grit was the first multi-pitch sport climb established in the Bow Valley. Despite the initial controversy over the ethics of such routes, some poorly placed bolts and contrived climbing, it has become a popular classic. Nowadays, probably 95 per cent of all parties hiking up to the base of EEOR intend to climb True Grit or its companion route Raptor. The climb offers sustained, high-angle friction climbing on exceptional rock and the abundance of bolts makes a pleasant change from the usual multi-pitch experience. There is some loose rock on the ledges and considering the popularity of the climb, it is advisable to wear a helmet. If the last pitch is split, 10 quick draws are enough, otherwise at least 14 are required.

**Start** The climb begins about 20 m down and right of the gully of Fumbles at an easy ledge system that leads up and right. Follow the ledges across a small gully and then go up the right side of a small pinnacle to a two-bolt belay at the top.

- 1) 30 m, 5.10a Climb up 5 m to a rappel station. A short distance higher a tricky move up and left marks the start of the hard climbing. Continue to a semi-hanging station below a small roof.
- 2) 30 m, 5.10a Follow the bolts up and left and then back right slightly to the start of a shallow groove on the left, make a difficult and contrived move right to a small edge, and go up more easily past a rappel station to a large terrace that splits the face. Belay at a bolted station on the right below a roof.
- 3) 25 m, 5.10a or 10c Climb up just left of the belay and then hand traverse right clipping a new bolt just above the roof to gain a small ledge on the right (bolt). Move up to another bolt and then either climb the shallow groove on the right (recently bolted, 5.10a) or move left onto the arete and climb the left side of this past a roof and up the difficult face above (5.10c). Both options end at a bolted station below and right of a corner system.

- 4) 35 m, 5.10a Make an awkward move up into the corner system and continue up this following the bolts to ledges at the top. Move up and right past a rappel station to a bolt belay on a small pedestal.
- 5) 50 m, 5.10a After an awkward starting move, easier rock leads up and left to a steep wall. Tricky moves up this lead to easier climbing and the huge ledge at the top. The pitch may be split at a rappel station near the midpoint.

### **Geriatric\*** 240 m, 5.8

J. Jones & B. Greenwood, 1975

As noted above, Geriatric was the first route done on this section of the cliff and is still a worthwhile outing. The original finish, lead by Jon Jones, is very run-out and helped inspire the concept of bolt protection used later on True Grit and his own route Parallel Dreams.

**Start** Either start as for True Grit and continue past the small pinnacle following ledges to the farthest tree on the right or climb easy ground (5.2) directly to the base of the pinnacle and then go right to the tree.

- 1) 40 m, 5.7 Traverse right and climb a shallow groove that slants up left. Move out right at the top to a piton and then climb down and traverse right across the wall to a two-bolt belay at a small ledge.
- 2) 35 m, 5.7 Climb up and right to gain a prominent corner/ramp system that leads back left. Belay where it steepens, at a bolt and piton.
- 3) 35 m, 5.8 Continue up the corner to a large ledge. Either belay at the second station of True Grit or continue left along the ledge to a two-bolt belay on the front face of a pillar (junction with Parallel Dreams).
- 4) 40 m, 5.7 From the Parallel Dreams station, climb to the top of the pillar via its left side and continue up the steep wall above to a right-facing corner. Climb the slabby wall up and right to the third station of True Grit and then continue farther right to a two-bolt belay. The right side of the pinnacle can be climbed at 5.8.
- 5) 20 m, 5.7 Climb slabs above the belay to a corner (piton) and follow this to a ledge and bolt belay below a second corner (fourth station of True Grit).
- 6) 30 m, 5.8 Climb the corner for about 5 m to a traverse line leading rightward across the slab. Clip some pitons higher in the corner and then traverse right making a hard move at the end to gain a groove. Ignore a bolt on the right (Econoline) and continue up the groove to a ledge (piton). Climb diagonally right and up to a two-bolt belay at a higher ledge.
- 7) 40 m, 5.6 Climb up and right to a piton and then go up and left past more pitons to a ledge system that leads left below the headwall. Step up and left around a large yellow block to the huge ledge at the top of True Grit.
- 7 alt.) 30 m, 5.8 R Follow a slabby ramp up and left below bulges and then climb straight up on solution pockets to gain the ledge at the base of the headwall (difficult to protect).

### **Econoline\*** 255 m, 5.10a

B. Spear, H. Hall & S. Chambers, May 1999

This modern route is reported to find some good rock and good climbing on the slabby wall right of Geriatric. It has a few bolts on each pitch but also requires gear (to 3 inches). The climbing is mostly 5.7/5.8 with a few moves of 5.9 and double ropes are recommended to reduce rope drag. The route climbs directly to the first belay on Geriatric, moves right to bypass a large triangular roof, and rejoins Geriatric near the top of its sixth pitch.

Start directly below the triangular roof, at an isolated tree about 20 m right of the small rib below True Grit and Geriatric.

- 1) 45 m, 5.8 Climb up past two bolts to a ledge left of a small, loose pillar. Continue up on good rock past two more bolts to the first belay on Geriatric.
- 2) 30 m, 5.8 Instead of going up and right as for Geriatric, step left and move up to a bolt. Climb steep rock past another bolt to gain the easy ramp of Geriatric. Climb straight up past a hidden piton to a semi-hanging two-bolt belay on the right.
- 3) 50 m, 5.10a Continue up and left on loose rock to a box corner with a white flake. Climb the flake for 4 m, then finger traverse right (5.10a) and step up to a bolt. Continue up to a crack and fixed piton, then traverse directly right past three bolts and step around into a left-facing corner. Climb the corner to a two-bolt belay on a ledge.
- 4) 30 m, 5.7 Climb the corner on the left for 7 m and then step left and up to a bolt. Face climb up and left on sharp rock past a loose groove to another bolt. Move up and left to a solid, left-facing corner and go up this to a ledge with a single bolt belay (gear required).
- 5) 30 m, 5.8 Climb the corner above to a bolt at a horizontal break, then move right to a groove and go up past a bolt to a ledge with two bolts.
- 6) 30 m, 5.9 Traverse left to a bolt below a groove (use long sling) and go up this past a second bolt and the end of the crux traverse on Geriatric. Continue as for Geriatric past a bolt on the right to a fixed piton (possible belay). Angle up and right to the two-bolt belay at the end of pitch 6 of Geriatric.
- 7) 40 m, 5.6 Climb the last pitch of Geriatric.

## Project

A small amount of fixed gear marks an abandoned project about halfway between Geriatric and Reprobate. The line is marked on the crag photograph and is heading, somewhat optimistically, for a large corner capped by very impressive roofs on the right-hand side of the upper headwall.

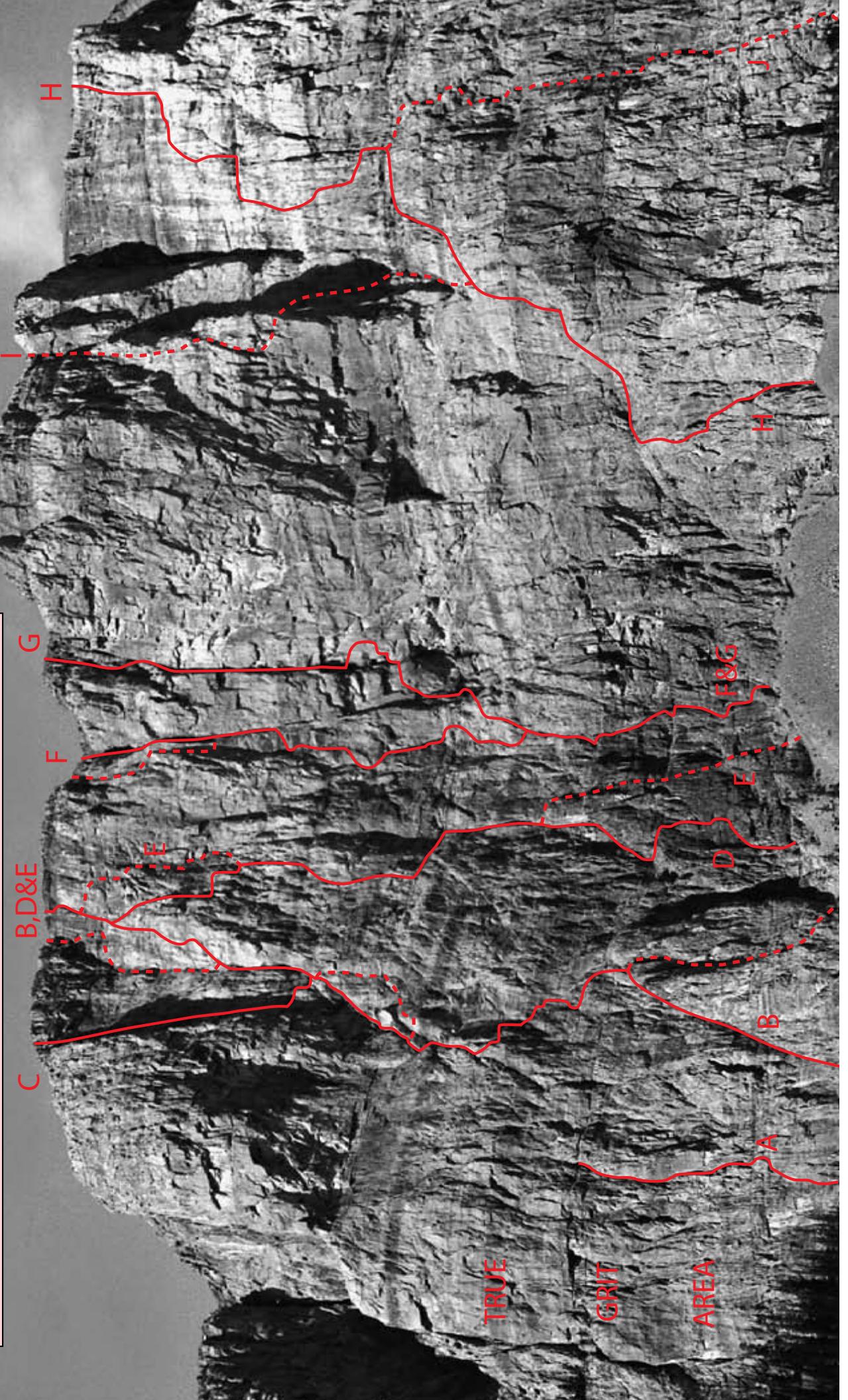
Reprobate\*\* 465 m, 5.7 and A0 (or 5.10a-5.10c)

B. Greenwood, J. Horne, R. Wood & O. Woolcock, 1971

F.F.A.: J. Horne & M. White, 1974

Reprobate climbs the large dihedral prominent in the upper section of the face near the south

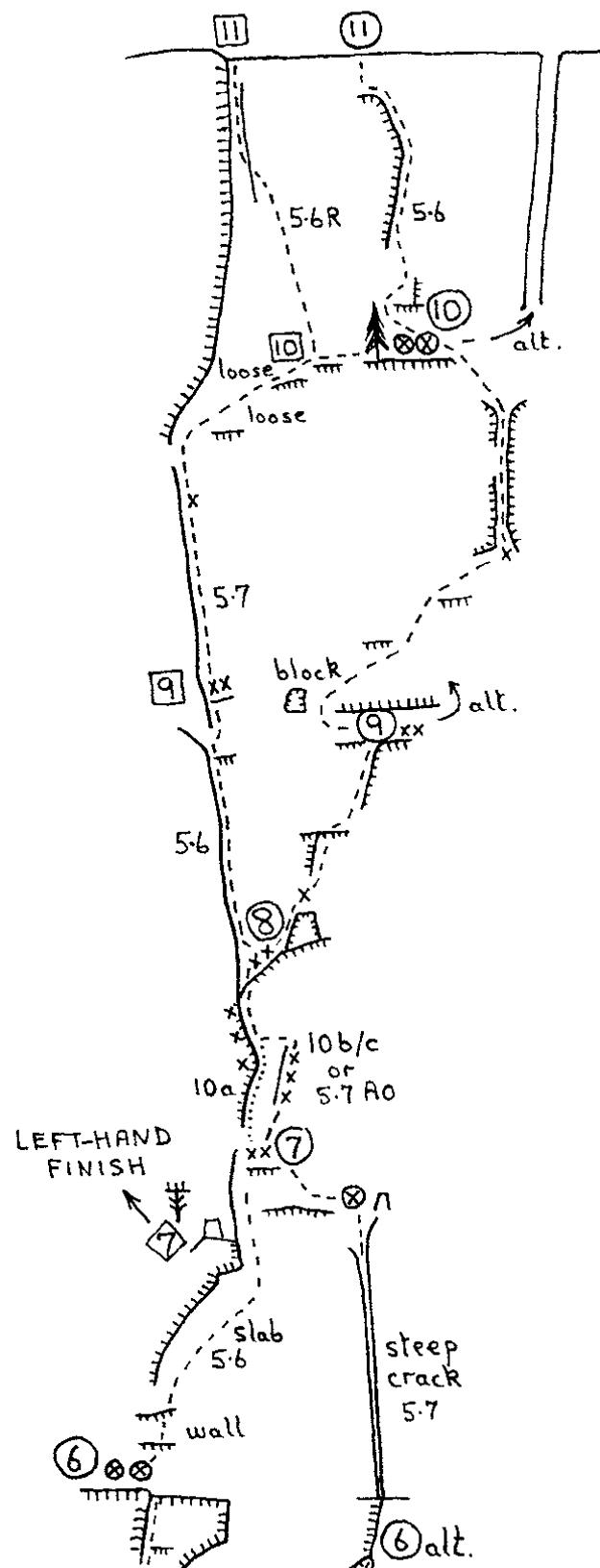
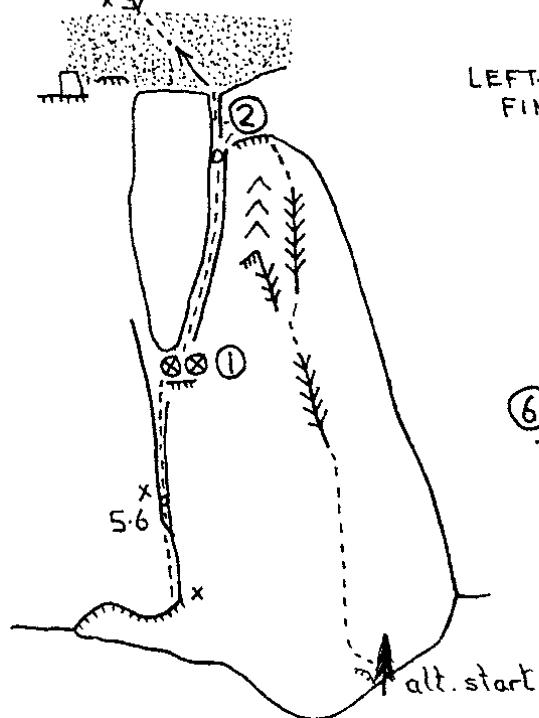
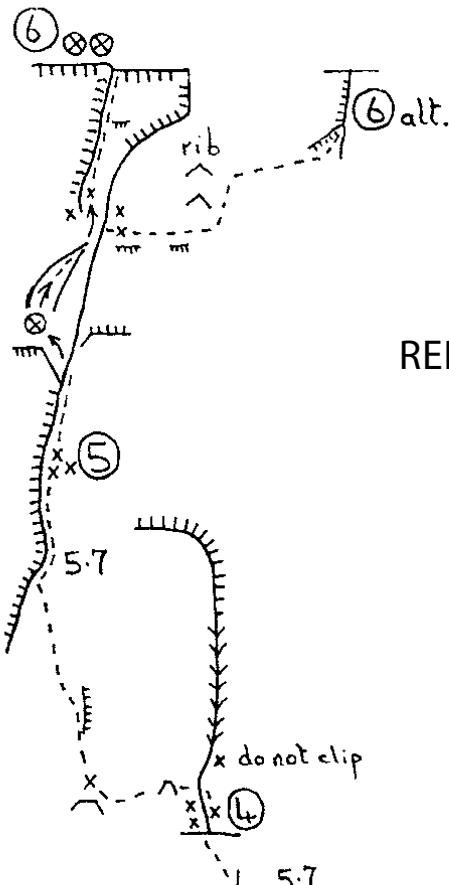
EEOR Left		
A Project	D Quasar	F Eeyore's Tail
B Reprobate	E Deviance Variation	G Anasinusdophobia
C Reprobate Left-Hand Finish	H Guides' Route	I Misguided Variation



end. The route has a well-deserved reputation as one of the better long climbs in the Bow Valley as the climbing is sustained (at 5.7), and the rock is generally very good. The first two pitches up the chimney are loose and have improved little over time. An alternative start up the right-hand side of the pinnacle is described below. It is not often climbed, but could clean up well with use. In the upper part of the route there are three possible finishes. The most common is the farthest right of the three, the Right-hand Finish, and is included in the main description. The other two are described separately at the end. The Left-hand Finish climbs a major, right-facing corner system left of the upper dihedral and the Original Finish continues directly up the upper dihedral rather than moving out onto the easier right wall. The Original Finish follows the natural line but at present is looser and has less fixed gear than the Right-hand Finish. Be wary of the large cornice that forms over the route and threatens early season ascents.

Start immediately below the upper dihedral at a chimney on the left side of a 100 m-high pinnacle. Scramble in from the left to a piton belay at the base of the chimney.

- 1) 50 m, 5.6 Climb the chimney past an awkward narrow section to a ledge and three-bolt belay at a fork in the chimney.
- 2) 50 m, 5.5 Climb the right fork of the chimney/gully and just above a steep section move out right to a ledge on the upper ridge of the main pinnacle. A bolt belay would be useful here.
- 1-2 alt.) 100 m, 5.7 Begin on the right side of the pinnacle about 60 m right of the normal start and climb up and left to an obvious break that becomes a corner system higher up. Continue up the right-hand corner to the belay at the top of pitch 2 on the ridge. The steep left-hand corner may also be climbed to a bolt belay lower down on the ridge. However, from here it is necessary to traverse behind blocks on the loose right wall of the gully to reach the top of pitch 2.
- 3) 45 m, 5.5 Move back left and continue up to a large scree ledge. Walk up and left to a short groove (piton) and go up this to a higher ledge. Belay on the left by a small corner (good gear in a short crack).
- 4) 25 m, 5.7 Begin in the corner and then make a long step right and climb the right side of a small pinnacle. From the top of the pinnacle, move left and up and then go left across slabby rock to a short groove. Continue up and left to a small ledge and piton belay at the base of a wide, open corner.
- 5) 40 m, 5.7 Follow the corner for a few metres (avoid a piton higher up) and then traverse easily left and down slightly across the wall for about 12 m to a small groove around the arete. Climb the groove until it steepens, then move left and climb a slab to reach a long, right-facing corner. Go up this past an awkward narrow section to a small belay (pitons). (Because of rope drag, it is more logical to belay below the narrow section, but at present there is no fixed station at this point.)
- 6) 40 m, 5.7 Continue up the corner and climb a short crack in the steep left wall to reach a ledge up and left around the arete (bolt). Climb a narrow ramp trending right to almost rejoin the main corner. This point may be reached directly by continuing up the main corner (5.8/9). Move up and left (pitons) and climb a steep ramp to a bolt belay at a large ledge.



⊗ = bolt  
x = piton

7) 45 m, 5.6 Climb steep but easy rock and then continue up the slabby right wall of a corner trending right. Move up past a ledge to a belay in a steep alcove (pitons) below the start of the upper dihedral.

6-7 alt.) 80 m, 5.7 From a belay at the bolt partway up pitch 6, follow the narrow ramp to the main corner, but instead of continuing up left, move down and right into the main corner (pitons) and then traverse across its right wall on ledges to the arete. Go up this for a short distance and traverse right to an easy corner. Belay below a steep chimney/ crack. Climb the crack and chimney above to a large ledge and then move left and up to the piton belay at the top of pitch 7.

8) 35 m, 5.10a-5.10c, or 5.7 & A0 Either climb the right wall of the corner past three pitons and make a difficult step back left into the corner (5.10c, or pull on the gear at 5.7 & A0) or climb directly up the corner (5.10a, wide stemming). Continue more easily up the corner to a small belay at ledges on the right (pitons).

#### Right-hand Finish

9) 30 m, 5.6 Climb over bulges and slabs trending rightward to a piton belay at a good ledge under a small overhang.

10) 60 m, 5.6 Move left around the overhang and then go up and right to an easy chimney/ gully system. (The pitch may be split here.) Continue up to a tree and bolt belay at a good ledge on the left.

11) 45 m, 5.6 Climb up and left to a right-facing corner and go up this on good rock to ledges near the top. Move left and climb a short wall to a dubious belay at the top. Alternatively, move right from the bolt belay and follow a series of breaks/chimneys through steeper sections to the top.

#### Original Finish

9) 45 m, 5.6 Move back left and continue up the main corner past a small fork to a piton belay at a ledge on the right.

10) 55 m, 5.7 Follow the corner to where it angles over to the right and becomes quite loose. The corner has been climbed directly, but it is best to move up and right to ledges (no fixed belay) and then right again to the tree and bolt belay at the top of pitch 10 of the right-hand finish.

11) 45 m, 5.6 Move back left and climb run-out, slabby rock trending left to a crack near the main corner. Finish up the crack and belay just short of the top.

#### Reprobate Left-hand Finish 5.9

C. Quinn & C. Perry, August 1985

To the left of the upper dihedral, a long, right-facing corner system leads up to the top of the cliff. The Left-hand Finish up this corner is rarely done and at present a selection of pitons is required for the final pitch. Begin near the top of pitch 7 and move left and down slightly to belay on small, sloping ledges by some cracked blocks.

- 8) 25 m, 5.9 Move up into a short corner capped by a roof, then traverse steeply left to a small ledge. Climb up and slightly left to a fixed piton, then traverse left and up with difficulty to a ledge below a short finger crack. Climb the crack and belay below the long upper corner. The pitch is run-out and the piton should probably be replaced by a bolt.
- 9-10) 90 m, 5.7 Climb the corner on mainly excellent rock to ledges below the steep upper section.
- 11) 45 m, 5.9 Continue up the corner, then move right and up round a bulge. Go up left to a small ledge, then climb over a bulge into a steep groove that is followed to the top.
- 11 alt.) 45 m, 5.9 Exit left following a steep, left-slanting corner below bulges with marginal protection.

### Quasar 425 m, 5.9

A. McKeith & C. Calvert, July 1972

Quasar follows an indistinct line of corners on the slabby face to the right of Reprobate. Generally, the climbing lacks interest except for the upper traverse, hence Bugs McKeith's tongue-in-cheek reference to its "astronomical importance." A few pitons are in place at some of the belays, but a small selection is currently worth taking as the climb is seldom done.

Start by a small cave (see crag photograph) directly below a prominent tree on a large ledge about 60 m higher.

- 1) 25 m Move right and climb a loose corner to a block belay on the right.
- 2) 35 m, 5.6 Move up right and then climb a short wall on the left to reach a groove. Climb the groove and then move left to belay on the large ledge at the tree.
- 3) 55 m Walk left and climb an easy gully to ledges at the top of a pillar.
- 4-5) 55 m, 5.6 Move up left and climb a steep V-groove. Continue up a corner to a band of overhangs.
- 6) 20 m, 5.5 Traverse easily left until a break is reached that leads to the upper part of the face.
- 7-10) 100 m, 5.6/5.7 Follow corners and cracks until the face steepens and becomes blank.
- 11) 35 m, 5.8 From ledges on the left, follow a faint traverse line left across a steep slab to a right-facing corner. Belay in the corner below a roof.
- 12) 55 m, 5.9 Climb the roof with difficulty (piton) and then continue up on easy ground to join the Right-hand Finish of Reprobate partway up pitch 10. Follow that route to the two-bolt belay at the top of the pitch.
- 13) 45 m, 5.6 Climb the last pitch of Reprobate.

## Deviance Variation 5.9

M. Hartley & K. Dube, October 1996

This is essentially a variation finish to Quasar that avoids the traverse left on pitch 11 and continues up a steep corner line to rejoin the route near the top. The corner line extends down the cliff for several pitches and could possibly be climbed in its entirety as a more direct version of Quasar. The first ascent party also climbed a different start to the route that began left of Eeyore's Tail and followed an easy 5.4 line diagonally left up the wall to reach the pillar at the top of pitch 3. The approximate line of this start is also marked on the cliff photograph.

Using the normal start or the Deviance start, climb Quasar to where "the face steepens and becomes blank," near the top of pitch 10. Instead of going left to belay on ledges before the traverse, move up and right to a ledge below a prominent system of left-facing corners and roofs.

- 1) 55 m, 5.9 Climb the face past a perched flake to gain a good hand-crack at the base of the corner system. Climb the lower corner, go up left past a series of roofs, and continue up the obvious line to easier ground above a final crux roof. Climb a slab and belay at a large block.
- 2) 50 m, 5.7 Continue up the slab to a short wall (fixed piton) and go around its left edge. Continue up trending left to easier ground and the bolt belay below the final pitch shared by Reprobate and Quasar.

## Eeyore's Tail\*\*\* 355 m, 5.8

R. Nelson & B. Stark, September 1977

Between Quasar and Guides' Route are two spectacular chimneys set close together in the top half of the face. Eeyore's Tail climbs a prominent black streak and enters the left-hand chimney near the top of the cliff. It offers interesting and sustained climbing on generally good rock and is considered by many to be the best traditional route on EEOR. However, it stays wet early in the season. Many parties rappel the route (double ropes) from atop the sixth or seventh pitch and there is a never-ending debate about the quality of the final pitches. Although somewhat dirty and occasionally loose, the chimney on pitch 8 is well protected, surprisingly easy and rather unique. It is recommended for the complete EEOR experience. Otherwise an impressive but rarely climbed alternate finish is available to the left.

**Start** The start of the route is a little tricky to find. Pass beneath the Reprobate gully and continue up to the top of the next broad scree-cone. From the top of this, scramble up the right side of a block into a short, broad gully that quickly narrows into a right-leaning corner. Climb the corner for a few metres and where it steepens, move up and left (5.3) to easier ground and a scree ledge.

From the right side of the ledge, follow a right-leaning, shallow corner to a higher ledge with a fixed ring piton below a broad gully with a steep black wall on its left (about 30 m off the ground). All the belays above here to the final chimney have two bolts and the route is easily descended with double ropes. The hangers, however, are homemade aluminum with small carabiner holes that may be difficult to clip. Presently there are no chains for rappel and new slings may be required.

- 1) 25 m, 5.5 Two options lead to the first bolt belay that is not visible until you are almost on top of it. Climb the wide gully directly above to a ledge and then traverse left past a scruffy, dead tree to the two-bolt belay (rockfall threat to the belay). Otherwise, climb across a steep wall leftward to easier ground and follow this to a prominent horizontal break. Step right around a bulge to a good ledge and the bolt belay.
- 2) 35 m, 5.7 Climb the break above the belay. Continue up a corner to a bolt on the left wall, step back into the corner and climb over an awkward bulge to a piton. Either climb diagonally left over a delicate section to a good ledge and a two-bolt belay or continue up the corner to the break and then traverse left to the belay.
- 3) 50 m, 5.7 Traverse back diagonally right into the corner and climb steep rock to reach easier ground. Continue up the steep corner above until it arches left into easy ledges. Follow the ledges left to a wide gully that leads up to a slabby bay. Continue up and right to a two-bolt belay at a small ledge near the top of the bay.
- 4) 25 m, 5.7 Climb the thin, shattered corner above to a ledge. Move up and right on broken ledges and then back left to bolt belay below a steep left-facing dihedral.
- 5) 40 m, 5.8 Climb the long, sustained dihedral to a small roof at the top. Step left to a ledge system and traverse this to a steep crack. Climb the crack to a piton and then follow an exposed diagonal break right and then up to a two-bolt belay.
- 6) 35 m, 5.8 Climb the corners above to a series of large right-facing flakes. Step left and go up a steep wall to a fixed piton. Climb up to a second piton and make a sensational move back right to the corner. Arrive at a ramp above that leads left to a two-bolt belay.
- 7) 30 m, 5.8 Make a delicate rising traverse right (piton) into the final chimney. Climb a difficult section in the chimney until it is possible to traverse left on good holds to an easier groove. Climb up to a two-bolt station in the chimney.
- 8) 40 m, 5.7 This spectacular pitch is not as bad as it looks. Continue up the chimney to a large chockstone roof. Climb backward past the roof and up a steep wall to the scree gully. There is a bolt belay some 5 m back from the edge and it is recommended to extend the belay back to the lip to avoid knocking rocks down onto the second.
- 9) 30 m, 4th Scramble up the rock-filled gully to the final steep chimney below several large chockstones.
- 10) 45 m, 5.4 Climb the back of the chimney to easy ground. Exit out left and move carefully across scree to a natural belay in better rock some 5 m below the top. Finish up rubble to the meadows.

### Eeyore's Tail Alternative Finish

8-10 alt.) 110 m, 5.9+ Follow a narrow ledge that leads out left to an edge. Move left with difficulty into a steep yellow corner with a thin crack. Climb this spectacular line to ledges. Continue more easily to the top.

### **Anasinusdephobia 465 m, 5.11a**

E. Dumarac & B. Firth, August 1998

This route climbs the right-hand of the two spectacular chimneys that starts above a large cave at about one-third height. The line had been attempted previously using aid to climb the roof of the cave and hence gain the base of the crack. It became a longstanding problem and is one of the most obvious lines on EGOR. On the first successful ascent, the wall to the left of the cave was climbed until a traverse right could be made to gain the start of the chimney system. The climb is reportedly quite run-out and may be undergraded. Its scholarly name may be loosely translated as "the fear of being watched by donkeys." Take plenty of pitons and as much big gear as possible (two #4s and preferably one #5).

- 1-3) 110 m, 5.8 Begin by climbing the first three pitches of Eeyore's Tail, but instead of moving left at the top of the corner on pitch 3, continue straight up and then right to ledges.
- 4) 50 m, 5.6 Traverse right and up around a buttress and go up into the large bay below the right-hand crack/chimney system. Belay as high as possible on the left, below the right-hand of two corners (piton).
- 5) 45 m, 5.11a Move left and climb the left-hand corner. Continue up a groove on the steep wall above (5.10b) until it dissipates. Move up right past a bolt and climb over a difficult bulge (5.11a) onto a slabby wall. Continue up and right to a second bolt and then make a long, difficult traverse right with scarce protection to reach an alcove in the main crack/chimney system above the huge cave (piton belay).
- 6) 40 m, 5.11a Avoid loose blocks in the chimney by climbing up and slightly right to a vertical crack. Go up this for a few metres and then traverse right to a left-facing corner. Climb the corner to a bolt at a ledge about 15 m higher, move up and left to a second bolt, and then continue diagonally left to rejoin the main chimney. The chimney is quite shallow and dirty at this point and difficult climbing leads up to a piton belay in a deep cave about 12 m higher.
- 7) 50 m, 5.11a Climb out of the cave and battle up a difficult off-width crack over a roof to easier ground. Continue up the crack system (5.9) to a ledge and piton belay.
- 8-9) 90 m, 5.9 Follow the crack system to the base of the upper bowl.
- 10-11) 80 m, 5.6 Climb two pitches up the left side of the bowl to the top.

### **Guides' Route 655 m, 5.6**

A. Cole, C. Locke & L. MacKay, 1970

Guides' Route follows the leftmost of three right-slanting ramps. Much of the climbing is lower fifth class and only in a few locations, principally toward the top, are there areas of technical

interest. Nonetheless, the route is well worth doing as it follows a good natural line and provides excellent training for long mountaineering routes. Rockfall by snowmelt or other climbers can be a problem and the route can be threatened by a cornice in the spring. Pitches 13 and 15 seem difficult after the easy terrain lower down and are good value at their assigned grade. There are many possible alternatives in the detail of the route, and a typical pitch-by-pitch description with the major variations is given below.

Start at a small gully just to the right of a spur, below and well left of the upper dihedral.

- 1) 45 m Climb the chimney and follow the first left fork to a block belay on a shattered ledge below a corner.
- 2) 25 m Move left round a rib and climb an easier corner to a second block belay.
- 3) 40 m Climb diagonally right up slabs to large scree ledges. Belay at a tree high up on the right.
- 1-3 alt.) Instead of the start described above, the gully on the left, at the highest point in the scree slopes, can be followed up right to the top of pitch 3.
- 4) 45 m Move back down and follow ledges rightward to a large, easy-angled corner that slants up to the right. Belay at the top of the corner.
- 5) 40 m Continue up and right following easy corners and ledges to a flake belay at the end.
- 6) 45 m, 5.5 Climb a short wall to a corner and continue up this to a small chimney. Move right at the top of the chimney and climb an awkward wall to ledges (piton). Alternatively, the scoop on the left below the ledges can be climbed.
- 5-6 alt.) From partway up pitch 5, the wall on the left can be climbed and then a rising traverse can be made to the right to the belay near the top of pitch 6.
- 7-8) 80 m. Continue up right toward a prominent chimney following easy slabs and corners to a small tree at the beginning of a large ledge system.
- 9) 40 m Walk right along the ledge to a point almost directly below the chimney and then move up to belay on a ledge.
- 10) 35 m Traverse left for about 15 m and climb easy grooves to a small belay.
- 11) 40 m Continue up the groove above to a short, open-book corner. Climb this and trend up left at the top to a belay about 30 m right of the main upper dihedral (ignore pitons in a more difficult corner to the right).
- 12) 45 m Climb up diagonally rightward to reach a long narrow ledge with trees. This is a prominent feature of the upper wall.
- 9-12 alt.) A more difficult alternative begins farther left of the small tree at the beginning of the ledge system, climbs a steep slab trending left toward the main corner, then continues up and right to the upper treed ledge.
- 13) 35 m, 5.6 From a belay farther right on the ledge, below two right-slanting cracks, move up left into a steep scoop (pitons in place) and climb this exiting left. Continue up left on

easier ground, moving back right to a piton belay. Note: an incorrect line leads up right from the top of the scoop.

- 14) 50 m Follow an easy crack system up right for about 20 m until level with a bolt on the right and then step down and traverse right on small ledges to a groove. Go up this for a short distance and then traverse easily right across a second groove to a scree-covered ledge below the left side of a 10 m-high pillar (piton belay low down and two more pitons on the left side of the pillar).
- 15) 50 m, 5.6 Climb the easy groove on the left side of the pillar and continue up to the base of a shallow chimney (pitons). Climb the chimney, which is awkward at first, past a small overhang (pitons) to a piton belay in the chimney a short distance above.
- 16) 35 m Continue up the chimney moving right to an easy groove at the top.

### **Misguided Variation 160 m, 5.7**

P. Stoliker & D. Pauls, September 1985

To the left of the upper dihedral of Guides' Route, a huge right-facing corner system leads up and slightly left to the top of the cliff. Misguided Variation is an alternative finish to Guides' Route that climbs the left wall of the corner system. The impressive overhanging crack at the back of the corner is unclimbed. The variation is not often done and pitons are probably useful.

Approach via Guides' Route and gain a scree ledge 25 m left of two small trees at the base of the huge corner and directly below the overhanging crack.

- 1) 45 m, 5.7 Climb over a bulge and move left onto a scree ledge. Walk along the ledge for 15 m and climb a short wall to a ledge and ramp system. Belay on the ramp.
- 2) 50 m, 5.6 Continue to the top of the ramp and go around a corner. Climb grooves on the right side of a large corner on the left.
- 3) 50 m, 5.6 Climb up to an obvious break in the wall above and pull over a flake wedged in the corner. Climb up and then left to a sloping ledge. Belay at a short corner at the left end of the ledge.
- 4) 15 m Stem up the corner and continue over loose rock to the top.

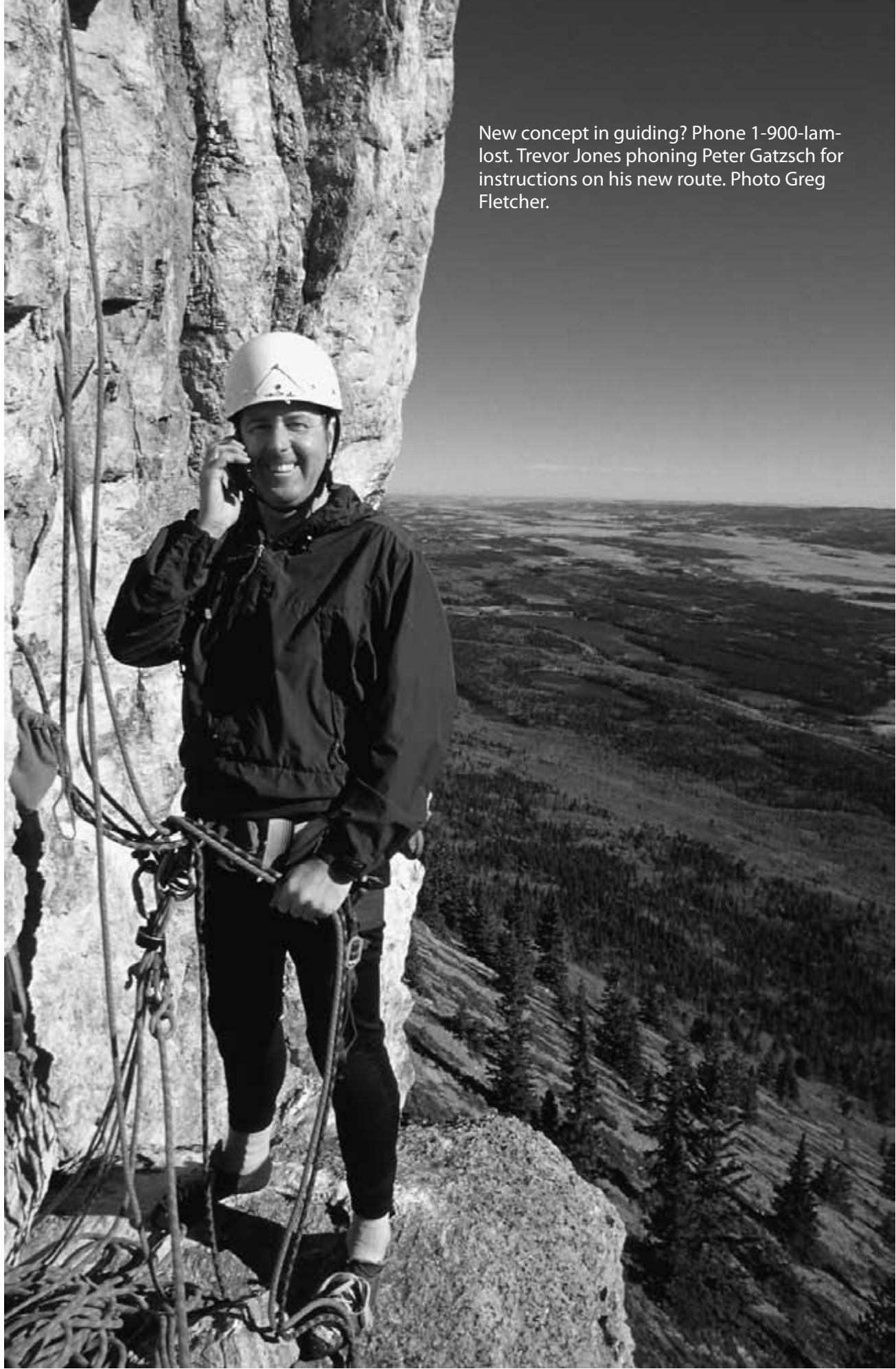
### **Free Fall 400 m, 5.9**

E. Dumarac, T. Wolfe & P. Norrie, 1998

Free Fall climbs the steep wall directly below the exit pitches of Guides' Route. An independent finish to the left was tried on the first ascent, but an epic 30+ m fall forced a retreat and gave the climb its name. The brief description given below is the best that could be coaxed from the strangely reticent first ascent party. Apparently, some reworking of the route is planned, with fixed stations and possibly some modification of the line.

Start to the right of a large cave at the base of the cliff and scramble up for about 60 m to a groove system. Climb the grooves and belay above and left of a clean slab below two cracks. Follow a corner directly up to a belay under a large roof. Climb up and then right below roofs and continue up past a bolt in a smooth wall to a belay on the left. Climb up trending left (5.9) to gain the large ledge system below the prominent chimney noted in the description of Guides'

New concept in guiding? Phone 1-900-lam-lost. Trevor Jones phoning Peter Gatzsch for instructions on his new route. Photo Greg Fletcher.



Route. (The chimney is directly above the belay at the end of pitch 9.) Climb the chimney in two pitches (5.8) to reach a long ledge system that connects with Guides' Route on the left, below the "two right-slanting cracks" at the start of pitch 13. Follow Guides' Route to the top.

### Balzac 450 m, 5.8

U. Kallen & M. Toft, May 1972

F.F.A.: J. Martin & C. Perry, August 1979

Balzac climbs the centre of the three right-slanting ramps. Only the first few pitches are difficult and much of the route consists of easy scrambling.

Start below a shallow corner just left of a rib, to the right of which is an area of steep yellow rock. Scramble up to a ledge below and left of the corner.

- 1-2) 70 m, 5.7 Climb the corner that slants right at first and then trends left to large ledges.
- 3) 35 m, 5.6 From the top centre of the ledges, follow an obvious groove that slants up right. Belay below a steep wall.
- 4) 25 m, 5.8 Climb the right-hand of two steep cracks and continue up a groove to the top of a block.
- 5) 35 m, 5.8 Move right to a steep slab and climb up to a wall. Traverse right and then move up past two bolts to easier ground.

5 alt.) 35 m, 5.8 Traverse left from the belay and climb a slabby wall to a steep section. Follow a short, difficult groove up left, and then move back right on easier rock.

The climbing above is much easier and trends up right over broken rock to a tree at the base of a big slanting corner. The first ascent party traversed right at this point past a gully and climbed a second gully that diminishes to a crack. Above this a rib was followed to the top. A more direct alternative leads up a short steep section above the tree (5.7) to slabs that can be third-classed (isolated 5.5 moves) on sound rock to reach the rib and hence the top.

### Dropout\*\* 430 m, 5.9

C. Perry & M. White, September 1982

This excellent route climbs good waterworn rock in a large corner system just left of the MacKay Route. However, it is usually wet until midsummer and parts of the route can sometimes be dirty owing to the water seepage. Much to the hope and chagrin of local ice climbers, the seepage has been known to form an impressive curtain of ice during winter months and several failed attempts have been made to reach it. These have resulted in a number of bolted anchors out in the middle of nowhere to the left of the route. To date, the main corner line directly above pitch 2 has not been climbed.

Start about 20 m left of the prominent ramp of the MacKay Route, move up and across left and then climb easy rock diagonally back right for about 15 m to the base of the main corner.

- 1) 30 m, 5.8 Climb the corner to a ledge on the left (old bolt). Continue past a small roof to a bolt belay at a second ledge on the left.
- 2) 30 m, 5.9 Climb the corner above and move left with difficulty around a roof. Continue to a second roof and then step down and left to easier ground. Move up to higher ledges

### East End of Rundle Right

A Balzac    C Mackay Route    E Girls Lie  
B Dropout    D The Bird    F North Ridge



and a bolt belay.

- 3) 45 m, 5.6 Follow the corner for a few metres and then move up right on easy ground to the right of two short corners. Climb this and continue up the wall trending right to ledges. Traverse right past a shattered block and climb a short corner to broken ledges and a bolt belay.
- 4) 35 m, 5.8 Climb the corner above (this is about 35 m right of the main corner), to a small stance and bolt belay in a steep bay.
- 5) 35 m, 5.6 Climb up left to the arete and make a long traverse left back to the main corner and a bolt belay.
- 6) 20 m, 5.6 Follow the corner to a large overhang.
- 7) 45 m, 5.7 Climb round the overhang and continue up the corner until a traverse left can be made onto smooth slabs below the upper chimney. Climb the right side of the slabs to a ledge about 10 m below and right of the chimney.
- 8) 10 m, 5.6 Climb the slabby wall to a ledge at the base of the chimney. Belay here or continue with pitch 9.
- 9) 40 m, 5.9 The chimney is loose and awkward near the bottom but improves higher up. The crux section round the upper bulge is long but surprisingly well protected. Belay in a cave near the top of the chimney.
- 10) 45 m, 5.8 Climb the short top section of the chimney and belay high up in an easy bowl.
- 11) 35 m, 5.6 At the top of the bowl, a hidden ramp leads up left to a ridge (junction with Balzac).
- 12-13) 60 m Continue up the ridge to the top.

### MacKay Route 490 m, 5.10a

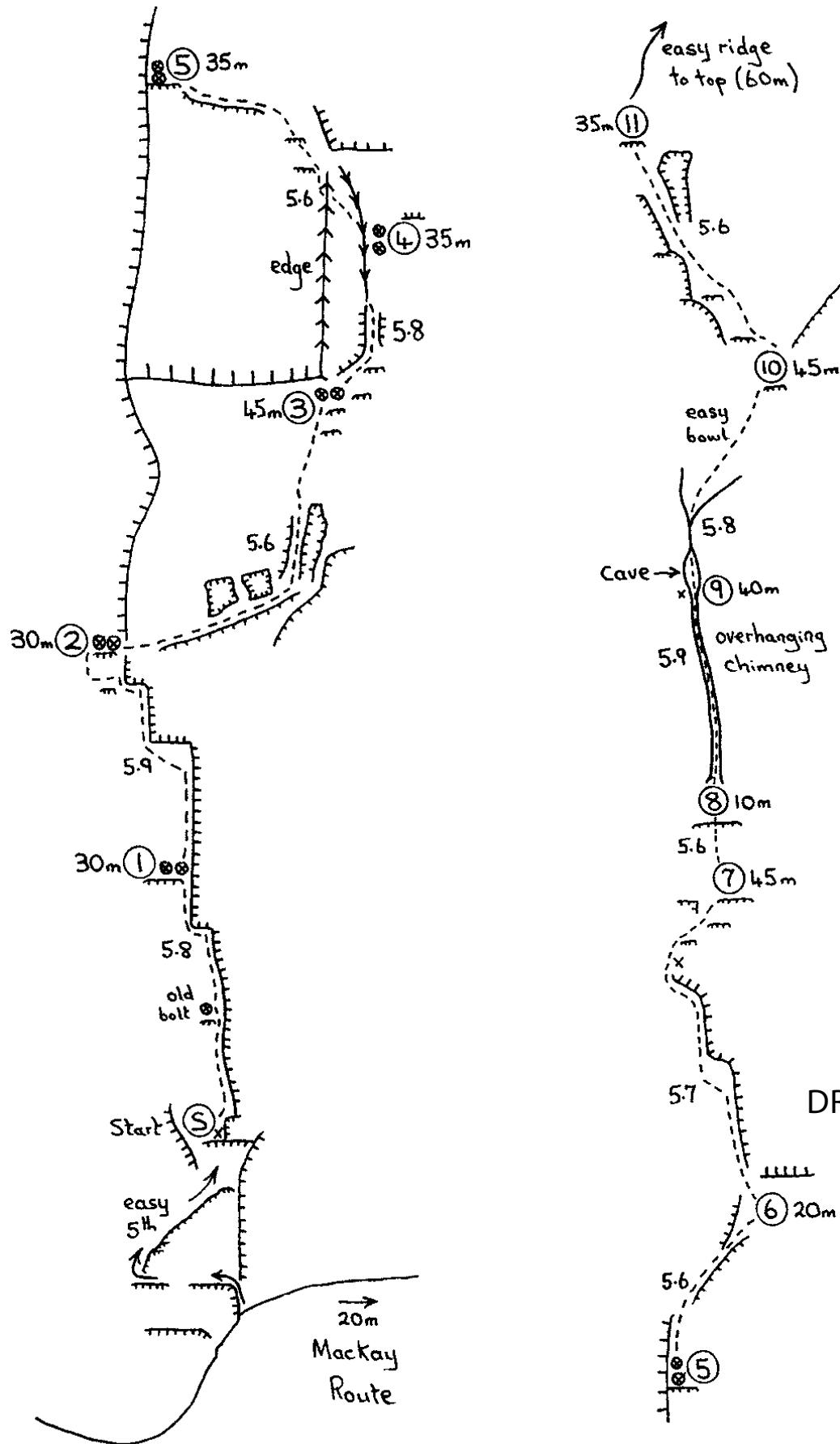
L. MacKay, D. Vockeroth & J. White, 1972

Right Variation: C. Perry & M. White, 1981

F.F.A. (by Right Variation): R. Lanthier & party, 1986

The MacKay Route follows the right-hand of the three right-slanting ramps. It is named for Lloyd MacKay who pioneered several of the best rock climbs established in the Bow Valley during the 1960s and early 1970s. Pitches 6 and 7 deviate right from the original line and are now the normal means of ascent. Several unsuccessful attempts have been made to free climb the original route, a steep, layback crack. Pitons are required for belays although many are now bolted.

- 1-5) 150 m Climb an obvious line of corners and ramps trending up to the right. Pitch 5 is 5.7 and the others are easier. Belay from bolts at the base of a slab, above which is a steep section.
- 6) 40 m, 5.10a Trend right up the slab almost to the steep wall, then make a few moves back left up a short ramp. Starting right of a piton, climb the steep wall past a second piton to gain a short groove. Hand traverse right to easier ground and climb up to a good ledge.
- 7) 35 m, 5.7 Climb a steep crack to slabs and then work back left into the main corner (poor





protection).

- 6-7 alt.) 5.8 A1 Climb the main corner directly, mixed free and aid.
- 8) 35 m, 5.6 Continue up a steep, rotten groove just right of the corner and belay up and to the right on slabs.
- 9-11) Traverse right, then climb moderate slabs, cracks and corners more or less straight up to gain a huge scree ledge below the steep upper wall.
- 12-14) Walk and scramble right on the ledge to its end (junction with Girls Lie). Climb a short face to an easy ridge and follow this to a final steep wall. Walk right on a ledge into a wide, steep gully.
- 15) 5.6 Climb a steep, broken exit crack on the right side of the gully to easy ground.
- 14-15 alt.) 5.10a Instead of moving right into the gully, climb a crack in the final wall 7-8 m left of the ridge.

### The Bird—project

A major unfinished climb begins immediately right of the MacKay Route, crosses it after four pitches, and moves off left onto the large rounded buttress between it and Dropout. The current high point is roughly level with the top of the big chimney on the latter route and the climbing (up to 5.11c) is reported to be good. Of the 10 pitches completed to date, the first four are described below as they provide an alternative start to the MacKay Route. Other attempts have been made to climb the same buttress beginning farther left from Drop Out and some gear is in place.

- 1) 30 m, 5.6 Start 30 m right of the MacKay Route and climb up into a bay/groove system. Follow the left-hand weakness past good gear placements to a bolt, and from another bolt 10 m higher, traverse up and right into a groove. Go up this to a belay (bolt and fixed nut).
- 2) 25 m, 5.8 Climb the groove above past a fixed piton to a bolt. Continue up with marginal protection past a block/bulge. Make an awkward move right and continue up to a good ledge and two-bolt belay.
- 3) 45 m, 5.6 Move diagonally right along an obvious flake/ramp system on good rock to a ledge and two-bolt belay.
- 4) 15 m, 5.7 From the left side of the ledge climb a steep corner on good holds for about 6 m. Clip a bolt and then traverse left on a loose ledge to a two-bolt station (junction with the MacKay Route).

### Girls Lie\* 550 m, 5.11

D. Bretzloff & M. Piche, September 1998

This reportedly good route is the newest addition to EEOR. It was finished after numerous efforts and the lower pitches all have bolt belays. There are also bolts at the harder sections although a small selection of pitons is recommended. The last three pitches are the same as the MacKay

Opposite: Marc Piche starting the big chimney on Dropout. Photo Adam Hartling.

Route, exiting via the harder left-hand alternative.

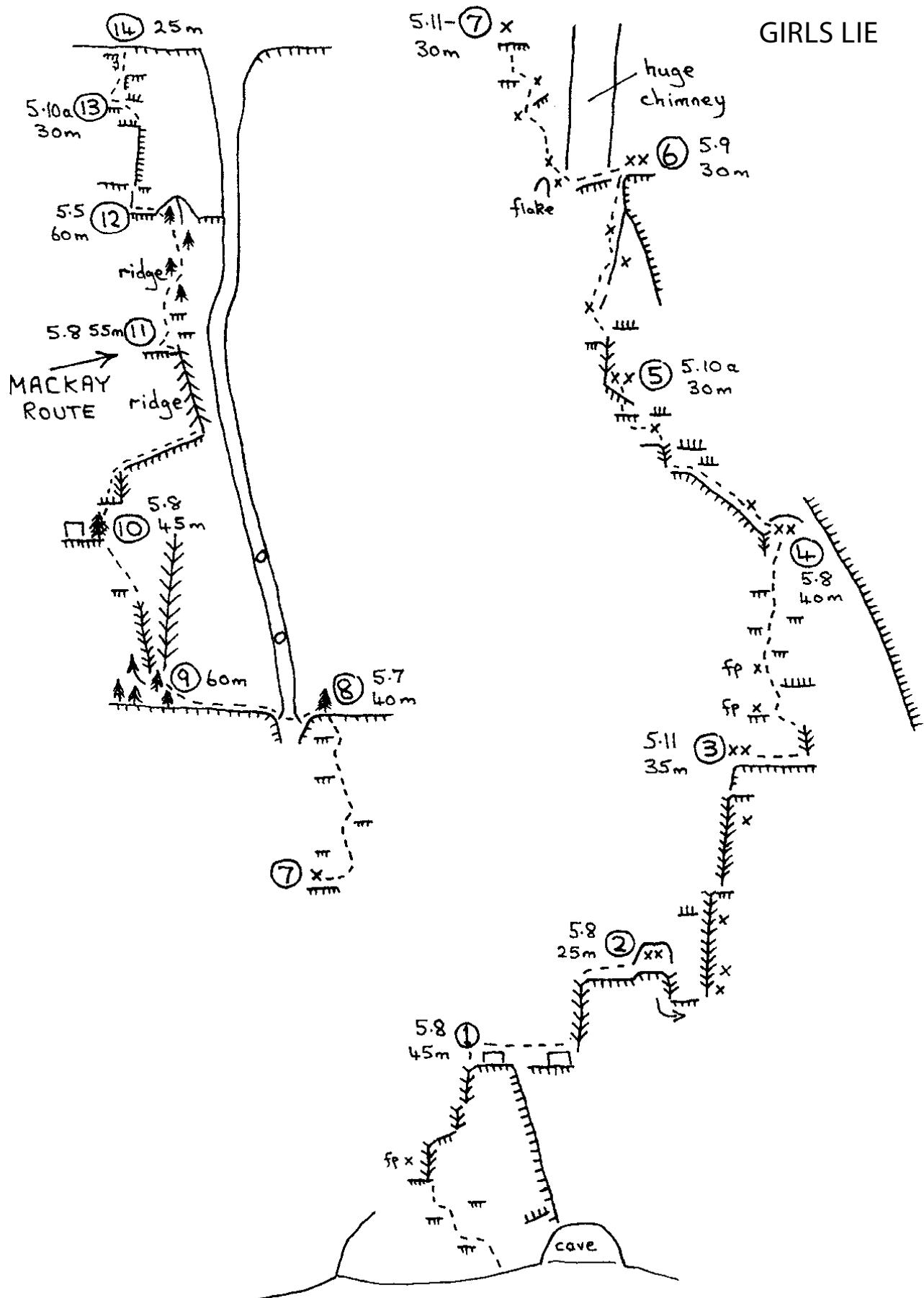
Start From the start of the MacKay Route, move right for about 300 m past the first large bay of overhanging yellow rock to a second. The climb begins at a short, right-trending ramp immediately left of a large shallow cave at the base of the cliff.

- 1) 45 m, 5.8 Climb the ramp to a short corner on the left (piton). Go up this and then trend right past two more corners to a large ledge.
- 2) 25 m, 5.8 Traverse right for 5 m and climb a corner to a ledge. Move right along the ledge to a two-bolt belay.
- 3) 35 m, 5.11 Climb down for 3 m and traverse right to the start of a corner. Go up the corner past four bolts to a ledge. Continue up to a higher ledge and two-bolt belay.
- 4) 40 m, 5.8 Beginning about 4 m to the right, climb up for a short distance and then go left to a piton directly above the belay. Move up past the right side of a small roof (piton) and then go directly up past one steep section to a two-bolt belay in a corner.
- 5) 30 m, 5.10a Step left into a left-trending corner (bolt) and follow this to a small ledge just past a bolt. A short, difficult section leads to a ledge and two-bolt belay in a corner.
- 6) 30 m, 5.9 Climb the corner for a few metres and then step left onto a slab (bolt). Follow a faint crack system past two more bolts to a corner and go up this, stepping right at the top to a small ledge and two-bolt belay.
- 7) 30 m, 5.11- Traverse across a chimney to a steep wall on its left. Climb the wall past a small flake (two bolts) and continue up to a third bolt. Step right and go up past a fourth bolt to a short corner on the left. Belay at the top of the corner (bolt).
- 8) 40 m, 5.7 Traverse back toward the chimney and climb up over slabs to a huge ledge.
- 9) 60 m Walk left to a patch of trees and belay at the highest tree below two corners.
- 10) 45 m, 5.8 Climb the left-hand corner trending left where it fades out to a ledge with a small tree.
- 11) 55 m, 5.8 Climb the corner directly above the belay to a ledge. Follow the ledge rightward to a sharp ridge and go up this to a large ledge. The ledge is at the top of pitch 12 of the MacKay Route and the climb follows the rest of that route via its alternative finish to the top.
- 12) 60 m, 5.5 Climb the crest of the ridge on mainly easy ground to the base of the final wall.
- 13) 30 m, 5.10a Climb the crack about 7 m left of the ridge to ledges.
- 14) 25 m Continue over broken blocks to the top.

North Ridge 400 m, 5.7

C. Scott & D. Smith, June 1972

This route starts a short distance left (south) of EEOR's north ridge and climbs several pitches before finishing up the ridge itself. The rock is reported to be not very sound in some sections but excellent on the crux pitch. The route is rarely done and a selection of pitons is probably a good idea. The description given below has not been updated and the line on the photograph is approximate.



Start about 40 m left of the ridge and angle up left over third and fourth class rock for about 60 m. Climb a chimney/corner on the right side of a broad gully and continue more easily trending right toward the ridge. Follow a steep corner (5.6), then edge right again and climb a corner next to the ridge. Follow a crack that angles right around the ridge and continue on easy ground to a shallow notch.

Above the notch is a steep tower that constitutes the crux of the climb. Climb a crack in the tower for about 15 m to an overhang and then make a thin traverse right to easier ground (5.7). Continue up and right past a poorly protected 5.6 pitch, above which easier climbing leads to the top of the ridge.

# THE NUMBERED BUTTRESSES

Long approaches and a general belief that the rock is poor have limited the amount of climbing on these impressive buttresses. However, a good trail, accessible by mountain bike, now runs from Canmore to Banff along the south side of the river and provides better access to the cliffs. The quality of the rock on the truly north-facing sections of the buttresses is probably similar to that on such cliffs as Canmore Wall and Ha Ling Peak. These have the same orientation and are also Palliser Formation limestone. Some good rock seems likely and the best is probably to be found on the east-facing portions of the buttresses. The latter is certainly the case of EEOR and may be true for the Third Buttress (Aiguille de Rogan) and Cooper Hawk Buttress. The Terminator area near Banff has large sections of waterworn rock and seems an obvious choice for exploration.

This guidebook was originally intended to include only the buttresses between Canmore and Cooper Hawk Buttress, the last buttress on the skyline of Mount Rundle as seen from Canmore. Three climbs are now described on a cliff just west of the Terminator ice climbing area and thus all known climbs on the Palliser Formation buttresses are included.

## Approaches

For the Second Buttress, the best approach is from the Spray Lakes road that allows some initial elevation to be gained painlessly. All other buttresses are reached from a mountain bike trail that runs from the Canmore Nordic Centre to the southeast end of the Banff golf course. At the two ends, it is called the Banff Trail and the Riverside Trail respectively. The cliffs are visited infrequently and there are no trails leading to the individual buttresses other than game trails. However, relatively open avalanche gullies and creekbeds cross the treed slopes between each of the buttresses and access is not as bad as may be expected. The Banff Park boundary crosses the cliff band at the northwest side of the eighth buttress and beyond that national park regulations are in effect.

## The Second Buttress



The Second Buttress showing the unclimbed north face.

The Second Buttress is characterized by a relatively sharp ridge leading to a thumb-like summit. It has a huge, unclimbed north face, only the upper part of which is visible from Canmore. Several attempts have been made to climb an obvious line on this face, which is best seen from Highway 1 near the Banff Park gate. It is similar in height to Ha Ling Peak and is certainly the highest unclimbed face in the area. All attempts to date can be described as "exploratory" and have ended only a few pitches up the wall. A route up the ridge was climbed in the early days of Bow Valley exploration but has probably not been repeated.

### Approach

From where the Spray Lakes road turns sharply left and begins to traverse the slope below EEOR, follow an open break up and right through trees to the ridge that descends from the north end of EEOR. An intermittent game trail leads up the ridge to a rock band and then traverses down and right below it. About halfway to the gully, follow easy ledges leading up and right into the scree bowl above and then go up a side gully on the right to the base of the buttress.

### Descent

Either side may be used to descend easily to the base of the cliff, but the east side is more logical to return to the Spray Lakes road.

### The North Ridge 375 m, 5.7

L. MacKay & D. Vockeroth, July 1968

This classic route was climbed by two of the early pioneers as part of a project to establish routes on all the major features in the Bow Valley. The original description is vague, but a recent attempt to climb the route has led to some improvements.

Start The first ascent party climbed a third class gully system some distance left of the north ridge, and after bearing right at a fork they reached the edge of the buttress about 10 m above

a prominent notch. The same point may be reached more directly by following a smaller gully system that begins about 50 m left of the ridge and goes up to the notch. This start is described below although there is a lot of loose rock lower down.

- 1-3) 140 m, 5.5 After scrambling up a short distance to the start of the gully, climb past a narrow section and continue more easily into a loose bowl. Move up and right to another narrow section, pass this on the left, and continue to easy ground that leads up to the notch in the ridge.
- 4) 15 m, 5.7 Make a difficult move up a short wall directly out of the notch to gain slabs that lead to easy ground. Belay in a short corner a little higher (piton).
- 5) Ignoring retreat slings on the steep ridge above, make a long easy traverse left to an inside corner and follow this to its top.
- 6-8) 90 m Climb up slabs (5.6), moving right to a nearly vertical gully. Climb out via the left wall of the gully (5.7) and continue to a chimney. Follow the chimney to easier ground.
- 9-10) 90 m Follow gray rock near the north ridge to the top.

## The Third Buttress

The Third Buttress has a flat, relatively featureless north face with a prominent ridge, separated from the main face, on its left side. Farther up the side of the gully facing Canmore, a rounded buttress stands out from the cliff and, in certain light, forms an intriguing pinnacle. This has been whimsically called the "Aiguille de Rogan," after a leading Canmore visionary. The ridge was climbed many years ago although the north face of the buttress presents an obvious challenge when viewed from anywhere in Canmore. Recently a climb was done on the left side of the Aiguille and is described below.

**Black 'n' Orange 190 m, 5.9**

J. Firth & C. Perry, July 2000

This route, named after a famous Rogan fantasy, climbs a slabby groove line on the extreme left side of the Aiguille before the start of the smaller left wing. The best approach is from the Nordic Centre following a creekbed that leads directly to the cirque between the Second and Third buttresses. The approach takes about two hours to the cirque and another half hour to the base of the climb, and the views are impressive. Start to the right of a steep gully/crack that separates the left wing from the protruding buttress of the Aiguille and just right of a short, overhanging crack. Scramble up to a slabby ramp that leads up right to the lower bulges.

- 1) 35 m, 5.9 Climb the ramp for 6-7 m and then move out left below a small overhang and up onto slabs below the bulges. Traverse left on excellent rock to an obvious break in the bulges and climb through it into the groove above. Continue up the groove past an awkward bulge at the top and move up and left to a ledge.
- 2) 30 m, 5.9 Climb a shallow groove up and left for about 10 m and then make a difficult step across the steep right wall to gain ledges. Continue right and up to a single bolt belay at



The Third Buttress with Buddha Ridge to the left of the main face and the Aiguille de Rogan left again.

a small ledge below the main groove line close to the left edge of the buttress.

- 3) 45 m, 5.9 Follow the groove to just above a short, left-leaning bulge and then move across the slabby left wall and up to ledges. Climb the steep wall above to a break in the roofs, go up through it (crux) and continue up to an easy gully.
- 4) 50 m, 5.2 Climb the gully to a steep headwall and make a long, rising traverse right on easy ground to the right edge of the buttress.
- 5) 30 m, 5.2 Follow the loose ridge to the top and add a rock to the small "summit" cairn.

### Buddha Ridge 5.5

J. Martin & M. Scott, 1973

This is the long ridge on the left side of the buttress. Avoid the lower, steeper section of the ridge by traversing left under it past a gully, then climbing straight up on easy rock to a big ledge system. Follow this right onto a face, and when the ledge ends, slant up right to a pillar. Climb down and right through a gully onto the ridge proper. The ridge is now followed over a series of short, steep walls until the angle eases. The final problem is a narrow, almost horizontal ridge with several small towers. An easy descent can be made by the gully between the second and third buttresses.

## The Fourth Buttress

There is no route to the top of the Fourth Buttress as yet. An obvious line on the north face has been climbed as far as a large central ledge but has not been completed. The continuation corner system, which breaks through the upper half of the face, is steep and loose and needs a more determined effort to complete the route.

## The Fifth Buttress

The Fifth Buttress has a sharp prow-like ridge similar to Ship's Prow with an interesting, east-facing section on its left side that is split by a number of large corner systems. The ridge was climbed in the early days of Bow Valley exploration.

North Ridge 350 m, 5.9

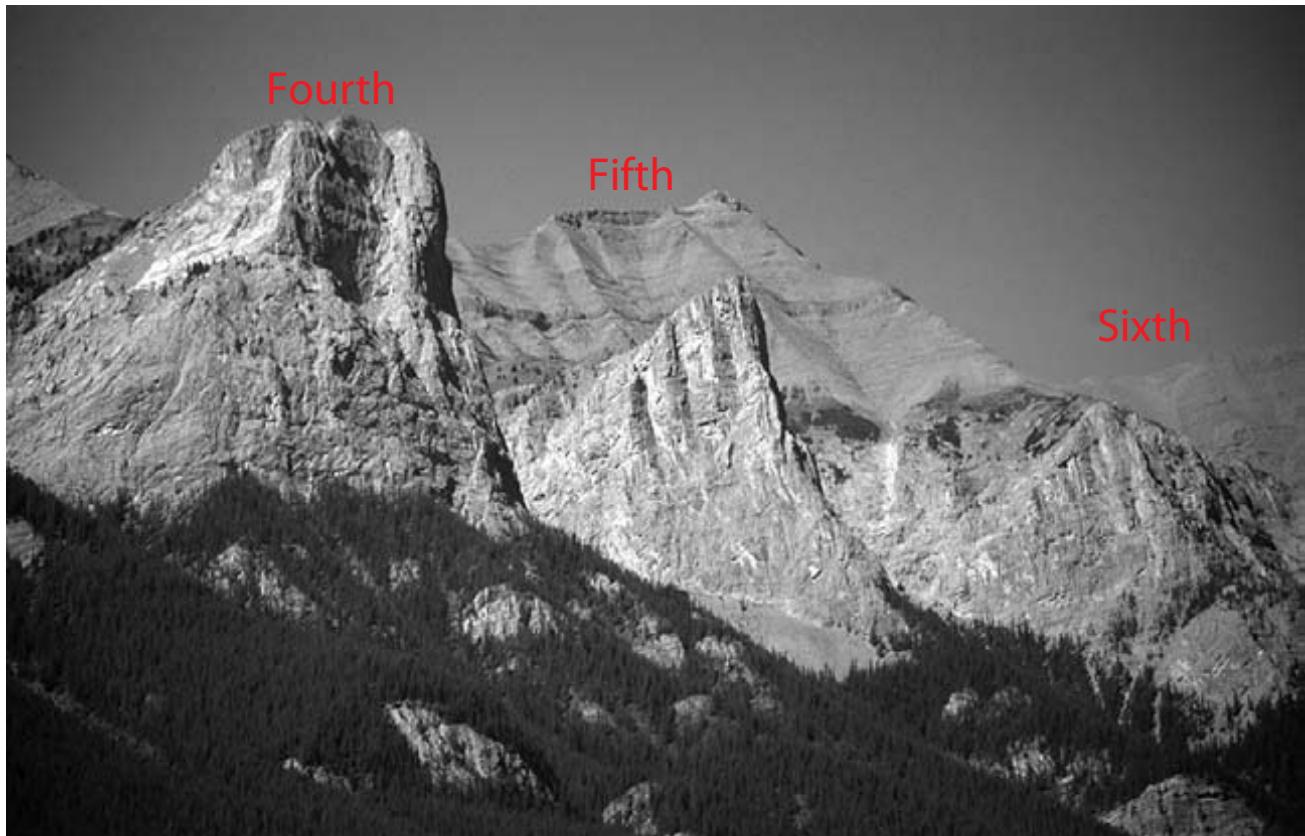
L. MacKay & J. White, 1972

F.F.A.: G. Homer & J. Lauchlan, 1976

The lower section of the climb up the ridge is easy and the crux is a 5.9 jam-crack near the top. This was climbed using aid on the first ascent.

## The Sixth and Seventh Buttresses

These two buttresses offer little in the way of climbing possibilities. The Sixth is a wide buttress of low-angle rock and the Seventh is broken by easy ground in the middle into east-facing and west-facing cliffs, neither of which seems quite big enough to justify an exploratory walk.



## The Eighth and Ninth Buttresses



The Eighth Buttress at the park boundary.

There are no routes on either of these buttresses although there is some interesting ground. The Eighth is actually two buttresses, one behind the other, both of which are probably Palliser Formation limestone. The lower one has some interesting easier lines that may be loose and the upper one has an extremely steep, west-facing wall. A narrow cutline marking the Banff Park boundary just touches the west side of the lower buttress and helps confirm the buttress count. The Ninth Buttress is fairly broken on its east side but has a relatively small, steep face on the right. This is split by several possible lines but the rock is uncertain and it is a long walk up to the base.

## The Tenth (Destroyer) Buttress

Destroyer Buttress is a prominent prow-shaped buttress that stands alone in a huge basin across from Carrot Creek. It is number 10 in the count from Canmore and is about 2 km west of the park boundary. The sharp crest of the buttress has been climbed.

### Approach

From the Riverside Trail (about 30 minutes east of the Banff golf course), hike up the huge avalanche gully that leads up into the basin west of the buttress. Follow the left-hand branch of the gully up toward the left side of the prow using good game trails on the right (west) bank. Angle up right to reach the base of the climb in about one hour from the Riverside Trail.

### Descent

From the top of the buttress, walk through the trees and descend via the basin on the left (east) side.

### The Destroyer 250 m, 5.9

T. Auger & D. Congdon, July 1987

The climb follows the crest of the buttress and is well situated with good rock in the upper section. At present, pitons are required for belays.

- 1-3) Easy climbing up the arete leads to a sloping ledge at about one-third height. Belay where the ridge steepens.
- 4) 35 m, 5.7 Climb up a short distance on shattered rock and then step right over an intimidating drop. Continue more or less straight up on face holds to a line of thin ledges.
- 5) 40 m, 5.8 Follow small corners trending up and right toward the base of a prominent pillar. Belay about 5 m below the start of a left-facing corner.
- 6) 35 m, 5.9 Climb the steep corner, bridging off cracks, to the top of the pillar.
- 7) 5.7 Go up to a large bay near the top of the face.
- 8) 5.9 Follow a steep ramp rightward to avoid an overhang. When a slab is reached, move right for a few metres then climb straight up a clean, strenuous crack (5.9) for about 6 m to ledges. Scramble up to the top.

The top is a beautiful heather meadow and larch forest that is isolated like an island by the surrounding huge scree basins and cliffs.



# Cooper Hawk Buttress

West of Destroyer Buttress the cliff bands formed by the Palliser Formation continue almost without a break until they dip down to ground level near the east end of the Banff golf course. Some sections could be referred to as individual buttresses, but they are much less distinct than at the Canmore end. Cooper Hawk Buttress lies on the opposite side of a large, open basin west of Destroyer Buttress, at the beginning of the remaining section of cliffs. The climb described below is on the east-facing portion of the buttress that can be seen from Canmore on the skyline of Mount Rundle.

## Approach

The climb was originally done in classic style using a canoe to approach from Banff and then finishing downstream in Canmore. The Riverside Trail now provides a more practical means of approach and allows the main avalanche gully east of the cliff to be reached quite quickly from Banff. Either hike up the gully itself to reach the base of the cliff near its right side or scramble up the forested ridge on the right.

## Descent

Go down wide gullies on the left side of the buttress.

## Cooper Hawk Buttress 320 m, 5.9/5.10d

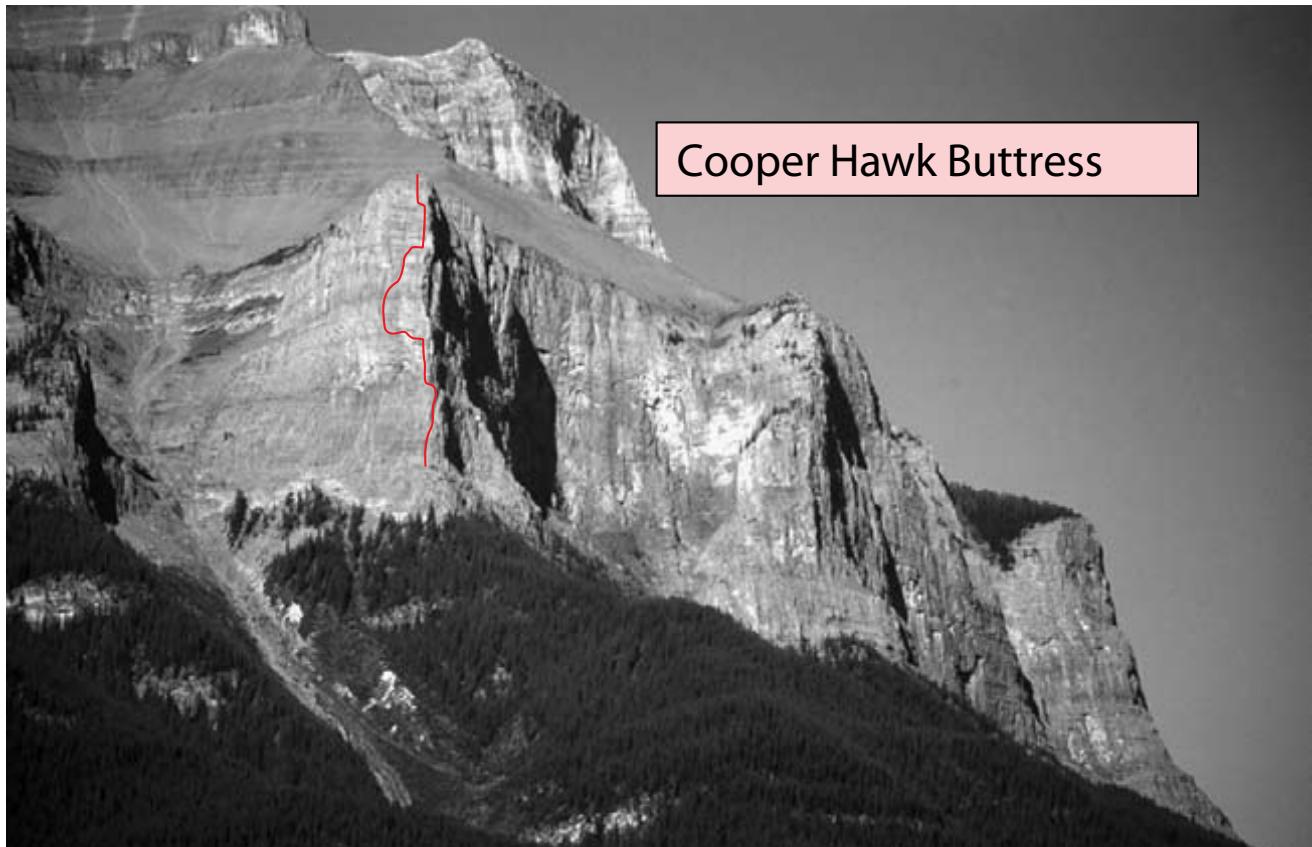
M. Whalen & C. Austrom, 1979

T. Auger & C. White, July 1986

The climb goes up the sloping east face of the buttress just left of the edge and has had two independent first ascents that followed slightly different lines. The route taken on the later ascent is described first as the "regular" route as it follows an easier line and the climbing is more consistent. The true first ascent is included as an alternative. The lower half of the regular route is reported to have interesting climbing particularly on the traverse pitch below the long roof. Higher up the climbing is much easier but enjoyable and on good rock. Take a small selection of pitons.

Start to the right of a large tree and scramble up easy ground to large ledges at the base of a corner system, just before the edge of the buttress.

- 1-2) 60 m Climb the chimney/crack (5.7) and then the corner above (5.8) to a large ledge system that extends leftward. Belay on the left below a crack system that leads up to the right-hand side of large, overlapping roofs. At this point the two climbs diverge.
- 3) A short pitch of good face and crack climbing leads to the foot of a corner.
- 4) Make steep moves at the start of the pitch and then follow corners to the first roof. Move over this to a semi-hanging stance on the edge of a 50 degree slab.
- 5) Traverse left across the slab just above the lip of the roof for about 8 m (fixed piton). Climb a short crack and make a few thin friction moves (5.9) to cracks at the base of the headwall. Go left past two fixed pitons and then diagonally down to a ledge. Belay on higher ledges to protect the second.
- 6) Moderate face and crack climbing leads to a good ledge.
- 7) 5.6 Move right for a few metres and climb a clean corner to a belay with good cracks (long



Cooper Hawk Buttress and the western cliffs.

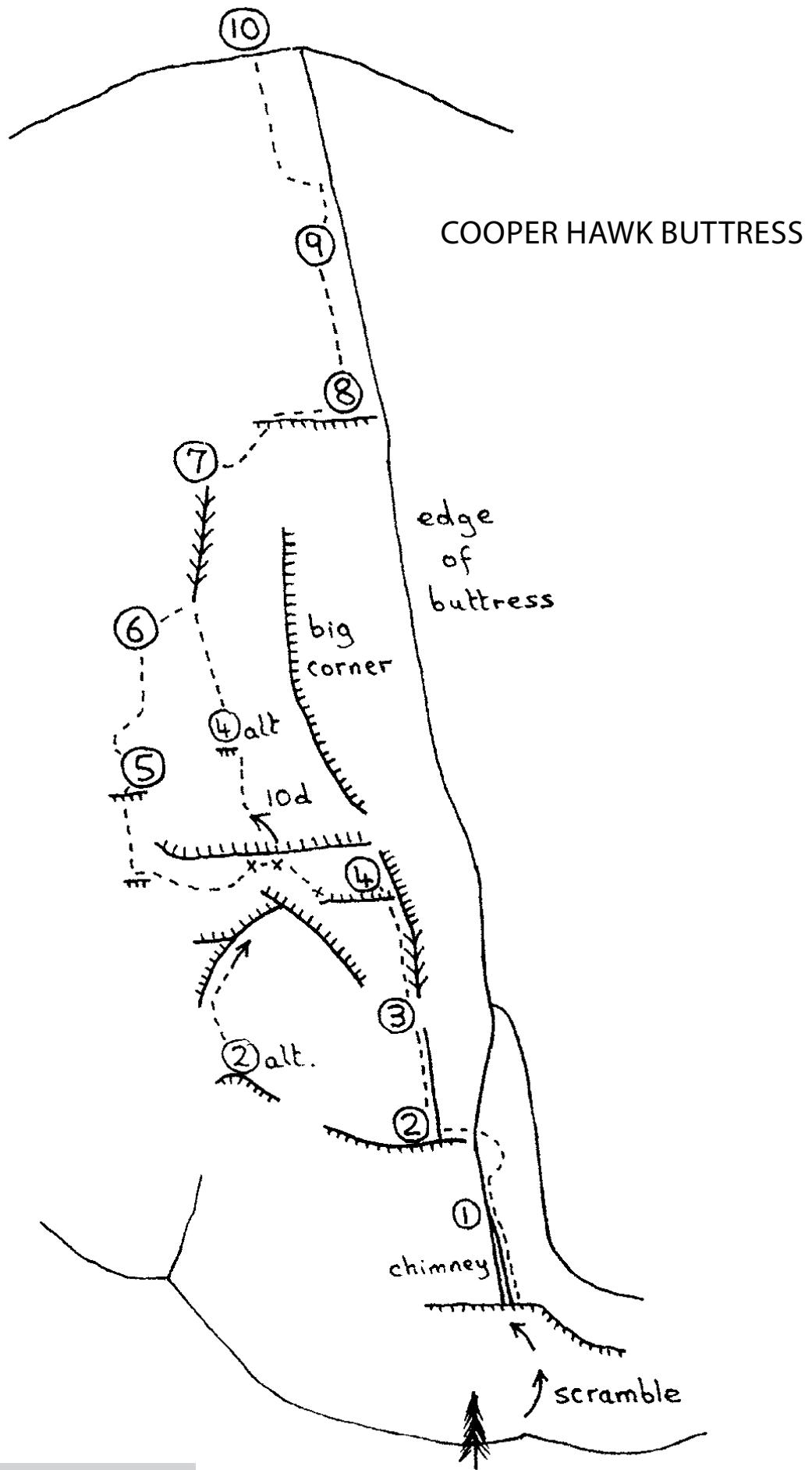
pitch).

- 8) Move up to a grassy platform a short distance above and go right along this to the edge of the buttress.
- 9) Good face climbing leads up to an obvious ledge above.
- 10) Continue on good rock near the edge for a few metres and then move left and follow moderate cracks to the top of the buttress.

#### Variation (original line)

Note The exact line taken by the variation through the overhangs is uncertain and the point shown on the topo where the two lines cross is approximate.

- 3) 45 m Traverse left along the ledge system to a corner below a large roof.
- 4) 30 m, 5.9 Climb the corner and then go diagonally right across the face to a hanging belay at the right end of the roof. Note: This roof is probably the one that pitch 5 of the regular route traverses beneath, but it may be lower down.
- 5) 30 m, 5.10d Move right around the roof and climb a crack and then a small pillar (5.10a). Instead of moving right into a big corner system, step left making a difficult series of moves up a short face to a ledge (5.10d).
- 6) 50 m, 5.7 Move up, then left to gain the "clean corner" on pitch 7 of the regular route. Continue up the regular route to the top.



# WEST END OF RUNDLE

This is the next major buttress right of the Terminator ice climbing area. It is a broad cliff band rather than a buttress and has a number of light-coloured streaked areas, the most prominent being toward the left-hand side. It is the last major outcropping of the Palliser Formation as it dips down to ground level. Three climbs have been completed and a project is underway.

## Approach

Follow the golf course road past the clubhouse and park on the right at an obvious avalanche slope that almost reaches the road, about 300 m beyond a long hairpin bend to the left and about the same distance from the start of the Riverside Trail. Climb about halfway up the avalanche slope to a trail on the left leading into the forest (cairn), follow the trail to a fence, and go up along the fence to a rock face. Traverse left and climb a rocky slope leading toward a major ramp system that slants up leftward across the cliff. A cairn marks the start of the ramp, referred as The Imagerie, which is followed across to the climbs.

## Descent

Follow the top of the cliff down and right to reach the road near the golf course clubhouse. Alternatively, scramble or rope down sloping cracks at the right end of the cliff to reach the forested slope below. Terminator Goes To Summer Camp is fixed for rappel (two 50 m ropes).

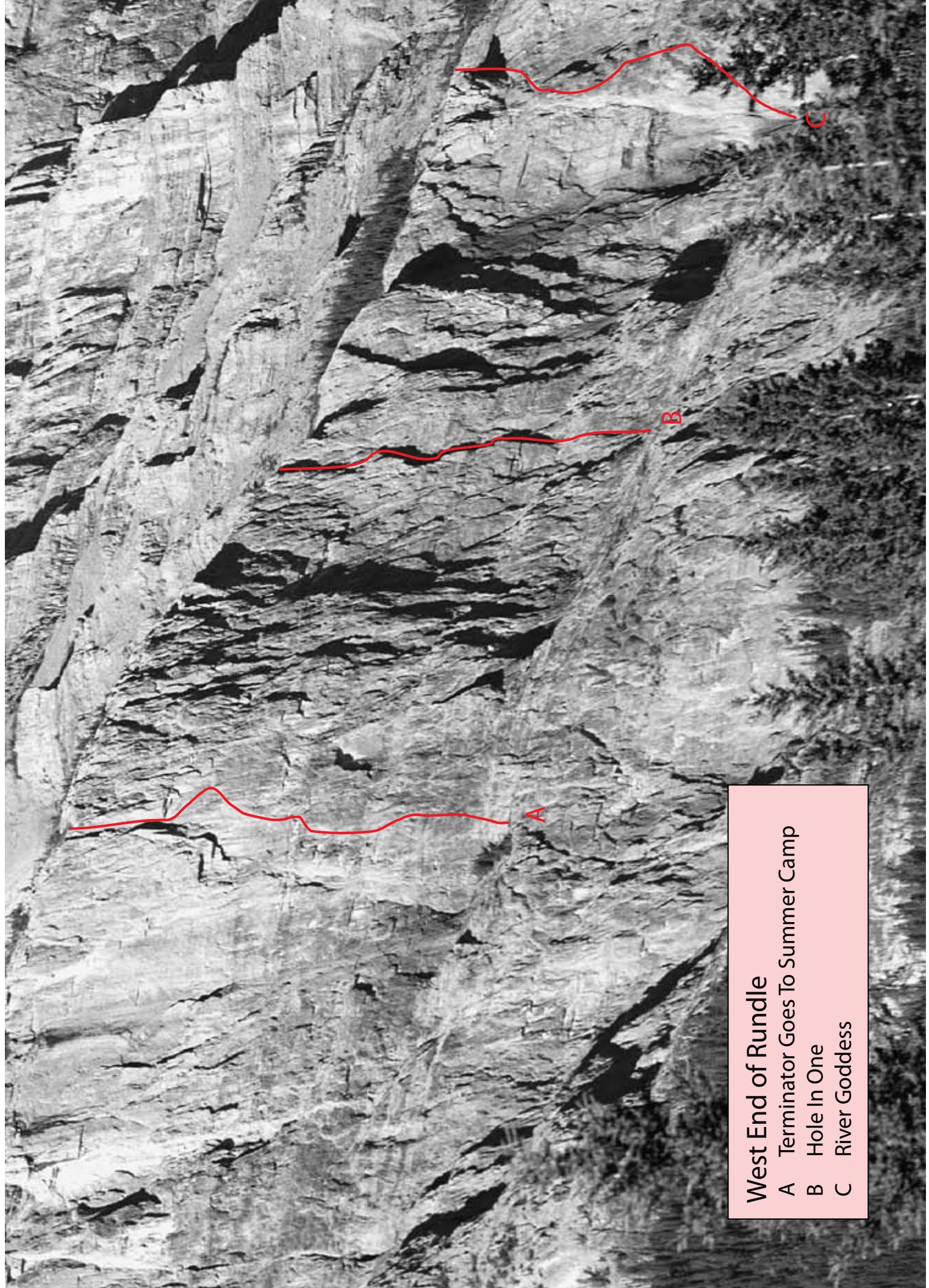
### Terminator Goes To Summer Camp 245 m, 5.10c/d

P. Giguere & J. Rosette, September 1997

The climb begins on The Imagerie ramp system partway up the cliff and takes a fairly direct line



Jim Rosette on Terminator Goes To Summer Camp. Photo Pierre Giguere.



West End of Rundle

A Terminator Goes To Summer Camp

B Hole In One

C River Goddess

toward a huge right-facing corner, right of the prominent white streak. It is run-out in places but on generally good rock.

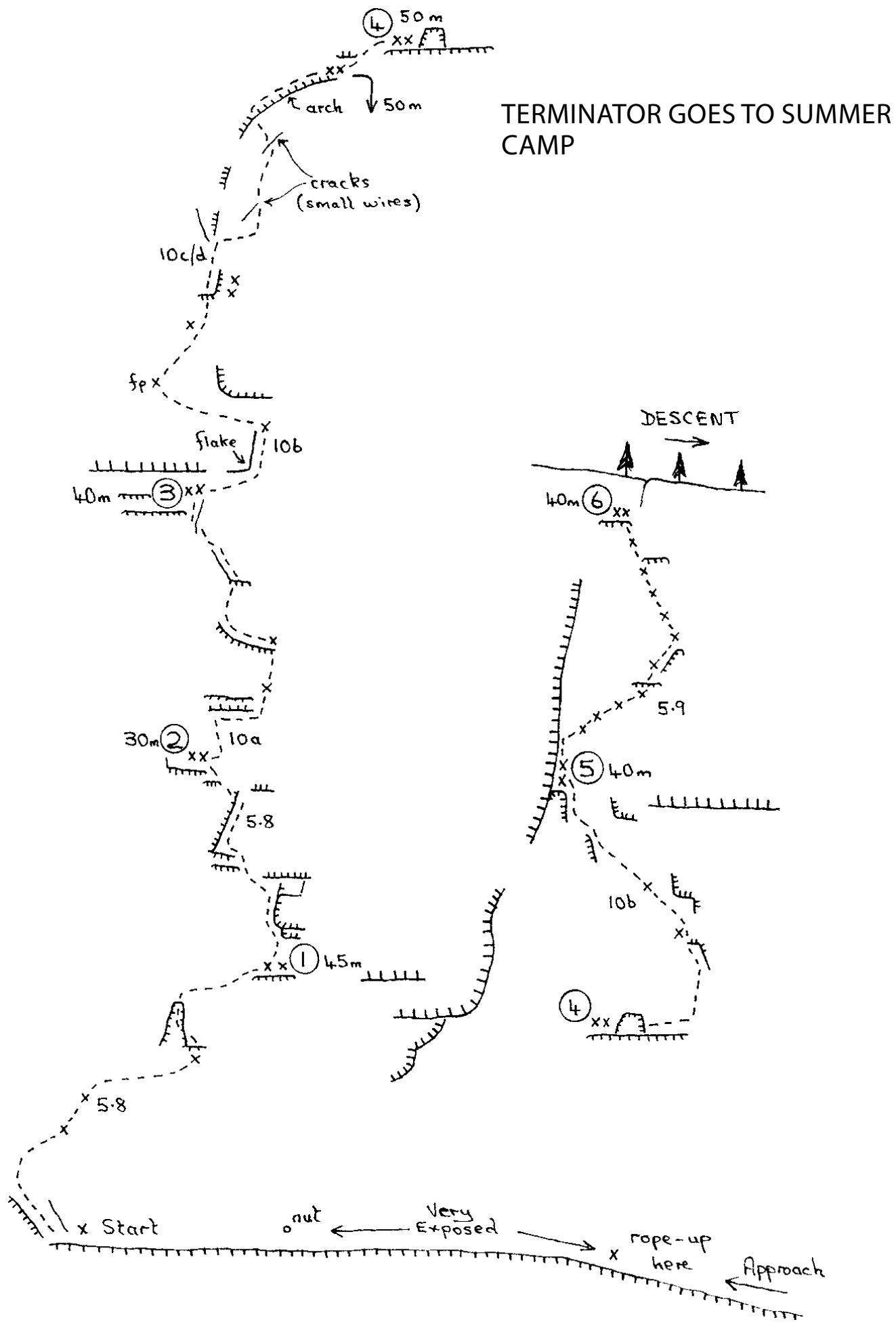
To reach the start of the climb, follow the ramp system leftward for some distance to an exposed prow where a rope is necessary (bolt). As the prow is turned, the upper corner comes into view and a fixed station marks the start of the route below and right of this.

- 1) 45 m, 5.8 Go up left along a small ramp and then up and back right to a small pinnacle. From the top, move right to a fixed station.
- 2) 30 m, 5.8 Go directly up toward a right-facing corner and exit left from this to a small ledge and fixed station.
- 3) 40 m, 5.10a Thin face climbing up blank rock leads to a fixed belay under a roof.
- 4) 50 m, 5.10c/d Climb a crack/flake on the right, clip a bolt and go out left from under a roof to a piton. Follow the bolts up the wall and after the crux, which is a little run-out, step right and go up past two small diagonal cracks (small gear). Exit left and step up on to an arch. Follow this right to a fixed station and continue up and right to another station at a ledge.
- 5) 40 m, 5.10b Walk right and climb the face aiming for a left-facing corner/roof. Continue up from this past two bolts to a station in a huge corner.
- 6) 40 m, 5.9 Move up the corner for a short distance and then climb good rock on the right wall angling right at first and then back left past good bolt protection. Belay just short of the top.

**Hole In One** 200 m, 5.8

T. Auger & D. Congdon, May 1987

Hole In One was the first route established on the cliff and is so named because of a shiny new



golf ball found hidden under a rock on a hand traverse about halfway up the cliff. This being some 500 m above the golf course, it was likely the work of a thieving raven. The climb consists of six pitches of consistent 5.7-5.8 climbing on good rock.

Walk left along the ramp system until about 100 m past the base of an obvious water course and below a continuously right-trending corner and roof system.

- 1-3) Follow steep and blocky corners with good cracks and excellent prickly limestone past a roof.
- 4-6) Continue up rampy faces, trending right, on smoother light gray rock.

River Goddess 275 m, 5.7

P. McSorley, C. Millar & M. Toth, August 1999

The water course noted above forms a large, U-shaped bowl near the beginning of the ledge system. River Goddess climbs a triangular buttress at the right-hand edge of the bowl.

- 1) 60 m, 5.4 From the outer edge below the bowl, scramble up low-angled grooves and move around right to gain a ledge system. Walk up until the lower part of the pitch comes back into view.
- 2) 30 m, 5.5 Climb diagonally up and right via breaks to a short hand-crack. Either climb the crack or avoid it to the right and belay on a ledge in a right-facing corner.
- 3) 15 m, 5.6 Climb up to a shallow corner and go up this to broken ledges. Belay at a piton on a higher ledge or traverse down and right to a corner (#4 Friend required for belay).
- 4) 20 m, 5.7 Climb the corner and exit from the widening crack up and left to a niche between two small trees.
- 5) 20 m, 5.4 Go diagonally right and then up to gain a ledge on the left below a large, off-width corner (piton low down).
- 6) 60 m, 5.7 Climb a corner on the left and continue up into a crack. Go up this past a loose block and belay on sloping ledges above (piton on left).
- 7-8) 70 m, 5.6 Climb up and then traverse right beneath a prominent, right-slanting corner (visible from the approach) to easier ground. Continue up breaks on the right into a scree bowl and then the top. A better exit may be possible up and left from the top of pitch 6.

# GROTTO MOUNTAIN

The large, rounded mass of Grotto Mountain is certainly less imposing than its neighbours across the Bow Valley, but in some ways has more to offer as a climbing area and has more potential. The major sport climbing centres of Cougar Canyon and Grotto Canyon lie at each end of the mountain and extensive, but largely undeveloped, cliff bands run along its southern slopes. The cliff bands are quite small in height and are also high up on the hillside. However, because of their southern aspect they clear of snow early in the year and enjoy long hours of sunshine for early and late season climbing. Rock with this orientation also tends to be better and perhaps with the establishment of good trails some worthwhile new areas will be developed. The Bataan sport climbing area, situated on the upper rock band between the two box canyons, has recently seen a resurgence of interest. Its excellent rock and interesting features make it worth the almost 1.5 hour approach—at least a few times a year! The trail to this crag makes a number of nearby undeveloped cliffs more accessible. Recent exploration of the cliff band below and right of Bataan has found the rock to be down-sloping, loose and not very promising.

Despite the predominance of sport climbing, Grotto Mountain does have some traditional climbing areas. From west to east these are: The Inner Sanctuary, Grotto Corner and the Southeast Ridge. Crag X is only briefly mentioned as it is now a predominantly sport climbing area and is described in the Sport Climbs guidebook by Martin and Jones. However, Armadillo Buttress in Grotto Canyon is included as its two multi-pitch gear routes are not covered in that guidebook, but they are both worthwhile.

## The Inner Sanctuary

The Inner Sanctuary is the more easterly of the two deep box-canyons that penetrate the south slope of Grotto Mountain. It is ringed by steep or overhanging rock walls that, on the right-hand side, reach a height of about 400 m. Only two climbs have been done to date but other possibilities exist, most notably an interesting corner line to the right of Twisted Sister. This is undercut at the base and has a large overhang above a ledge at about two-thirds height. The rock in the canyon tends to be gritty and friable, however, and this, coupled with access problems, will likely limit development.

## Approach

The most direct approach involves crossing the long quarry scar that diagonals across the slope immediately below the canyon. At present this is sign-posted No Trespassing and an approach in this direction is illegal. Hopefully, the wisdom of extracting low value resources in a prime tourist area will be eventually questioned and quarrying operations will be shut down. In that case, access may be accomplished as follows. Begin immediately east of the entrance to the Burnco gravel pit and landfill site off Highway 1A and hike up a shallow creekbed directly toward the canyon. Cross an open area and climb the right side of a large rock pile to gain the main quarry road that runs below the scar. Scramble up a small cliff and enter the drainage that leads into the canyon. The drainage is fairly easy going and soon opens out into a large scree bowl in the upper canyon.

The best alternative approach is to start in the Rat's Nest Cave parking area, as described for Grotto Corner, and hike up the west bank of the canyon following the ridge trail. At a short, level

section about two-thirds of the way up to Grotto Corner, contour left following a discontinuous, treed bench directly toward the canyon. Diagonal up left just before reaching the canyon to gain a break in the ridge and an easy gully that leads down to the creekbed. The gully is also used to descend from the top of the cliff and gear may be left at this point when using this approach.

## Descent

To descend from Twisted Sister on the east side of the canyon, follow small game trails and ledge systems down through cliff bands on the south slope of the mountain and then move over to the west to gain the break in the ridge described above. From here, a small gully leads back down toward the creekbed, but it is necessary to move out left (south) lower down to avoid cliff bands.

**Black Hole** 100 m, 5.10a

C. Quinn & C. Perry, 1989

Located at the back of the canyon, on the right side, is a deep water-chute that leads to large scree ledges below an overhanging upper wall. Start below a left-facing corner about 10 m right of the chute. Climb the slabby left wall of the corner, passing a difficult section higher up, to a belay on a small ledge. Traverse left and move up into the chute. Climb this past a narrow, awkward section to scree ledges above. Pitons are required and there is no fixed rappel route.

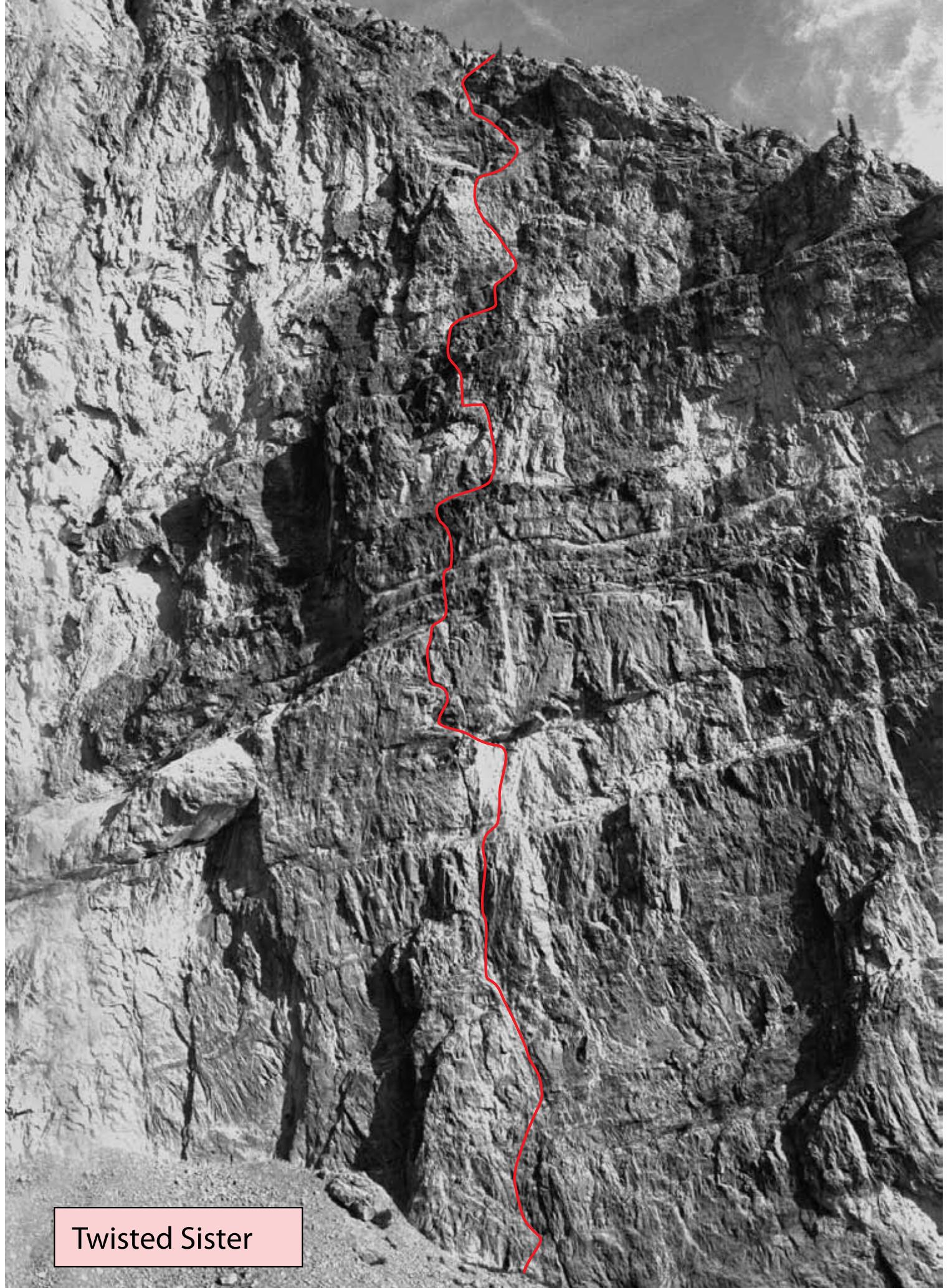
**Twisted Sister** 380 m, 5.10a

C. Quinn & C. Perry, 1989

This potential classic goes up a shallow buttress of grey rock near the left (upper) end of the right-



The Inner Sanctuary. Twisted Sister climbs the steep gray wall on the right side of the canyon.



Twisted Sister

hand canyon wall. The rock is variable although excellent in places and pitons are required.

Start about 50 m right of the deep water-chute noted in the previous climb, below and right of a shallow pillar with a sharp edge and inside corner on its left side. At about one pitch up the cliff there are two shallow left-slanting corners, and a little higher there is a prominent long yellow roof that extends rightward.

- 1) 45 m, 5.8 Climb a short wall, trending right, to a shallow scoop that leads to easier ground above. Move up right and then back left into the left-hand of the two slanting corners. Follow this to a small stance on the left.
- 2) 45 m, 5.1Oa Continue up the corner and climb a steep V-corner above, exiting on the right. Move up to a belay in a yellow, blocky corner immediately below the left end of the long, yellow roof.
- 3) 45 m, 5.9 Go up the corner to the roof and move out left on good holds to reach a small ledge above. Climb a short corner and continue up and left across a wall to gain the right end of a long, narrow ledge that slants up from the large scree ledge on the left above the water-chute.
- 4) 5.8 Climb steep rock above on good holds and move right at a ledge into a short corner. Climb this and continue up easier ground to a belay just left of a large ledge that leads rightward across the cliff.
- 5) 5.8 Move left and go up to a steep, left-facing corner with a large undercut prow to its left. Climb the corner and exit left to a belay on the prow immediately above the overhang.
- 6) 5.7 Continue up slabby rock and move left to a short corner on the edge. Climb the corner exiting left and then continue up and right following an obvious break.
- 7) 50 m, 5.6 Climb a wide, easy crack on the left to a belay on a block.
- 8) 50 m, 5.9 Move right and climb a shallow groove to gain a steep slab above. Traverse left across the slab on superb edges and continue up and left on good holds to a short exit groove. From the base of the groove, move out right on steep rock and then go up to gain a shallow depression that leads to easier ground above.
- 9) 30 m Continue up an easy ramp to the top of the cliff.

# GROTTO CORNER

Grotto Corner is a prominent, slightly S-shaped, open-book corner located in a long cliff band high on the south slopes of Grotto Mountain. It lies to the west of the large southeast face (directly above Gap Lake) and east of the two deep canyons. The approach takes a little over an hour but the rock is excellent and the climbs are well worth the walk. The corner itself is a classic, gear-protected crack climb that gives good practice for longer and more serious routes. Jughaul Wall climbs the right wall of the corner in an excellent position and on amazing holds. The two newer routes are also good although the left one is reportedly quite run-out.

## Approach



The normal approach begins in the creekbed that leads up to a small canyon, below and left of the corner (see photograph). The lower part of the trail is also used to access Rat's Nest Cave and is well travelled. Turn off Highway 1A east of Canmore just before the road goes up and around a bend toward Gap Lake and park in a flat area at the mouth of the creek. Follow a good trail up the west bank of the creek to a power line, move right for a short distance, and continue up the east bank for about five minutes to where the main trail moves left into the creekbed. Game trails lead up and right around some small cliff bands, above which it is best to angle back left slightly and follow more open ground along the ridge directly above the canyon. Eventually a broad gravel creekbed is reached that comes down from the large bowl above and to the right of the corner. Cross over to the left side of the creekbed and move left again higher up across the steep scree slope situated directly below the descent gully on the right side of the crag. Scramble up left over small rocky ribs (various ways) to gain a good trail that leads up and left to slabs at the base of the corner.

An alternative approach, which also makes an interesting circuit when used to descend from the start of the climbs, is to follow a cairned trail from the power line road up the west ridge of the canyon. The trail is well marked and continues up to the summit of the mountain. Follow the trail to the first small cliff band, almost level with the base of the corner, and then contour right, rising slightly, on an intermittent trail to reach a small canyon in the upper portion of the creekbed above a steep band of cliffs. The creek feeds a small waterfall that cascades over the cliffs into the lower creekbed early in the year. Scramble down the canyon to the edge of the cliffs and follow an easy but exposed bench up rightward to the base of the corner. It is worth noting that the lower canyon contains a number of undeveloped cliffs, some of which are quite large.

## Descent

The small gully on the east side of the crag is used to descend. It is reached by scrambling down the edge of the wall and then moving east on easy ground down to a good tree with slings, overlooking the gully. A short rappel into the gully and some easy down-climbing on the east side lower down allows the scree slope at the base to be reached. The easiest return to the start of the climbs is to follow a break up and left over the ridge and then descend scree below slabs to the base.

### Grotto Crack\* 70 m, 5.8+

B. Greenwood & G. Homer, 1972

The route climbs the crack at the back of the corner that is formed by one overhanging and one vertical wall. The first pitch is sustained and quite difficult for its grade but can be well protected. Watch out for a crow's nest partway up the pitch as it may be occupied at certain times of the year. Scramble up the easy lower corner to the base of the crack.

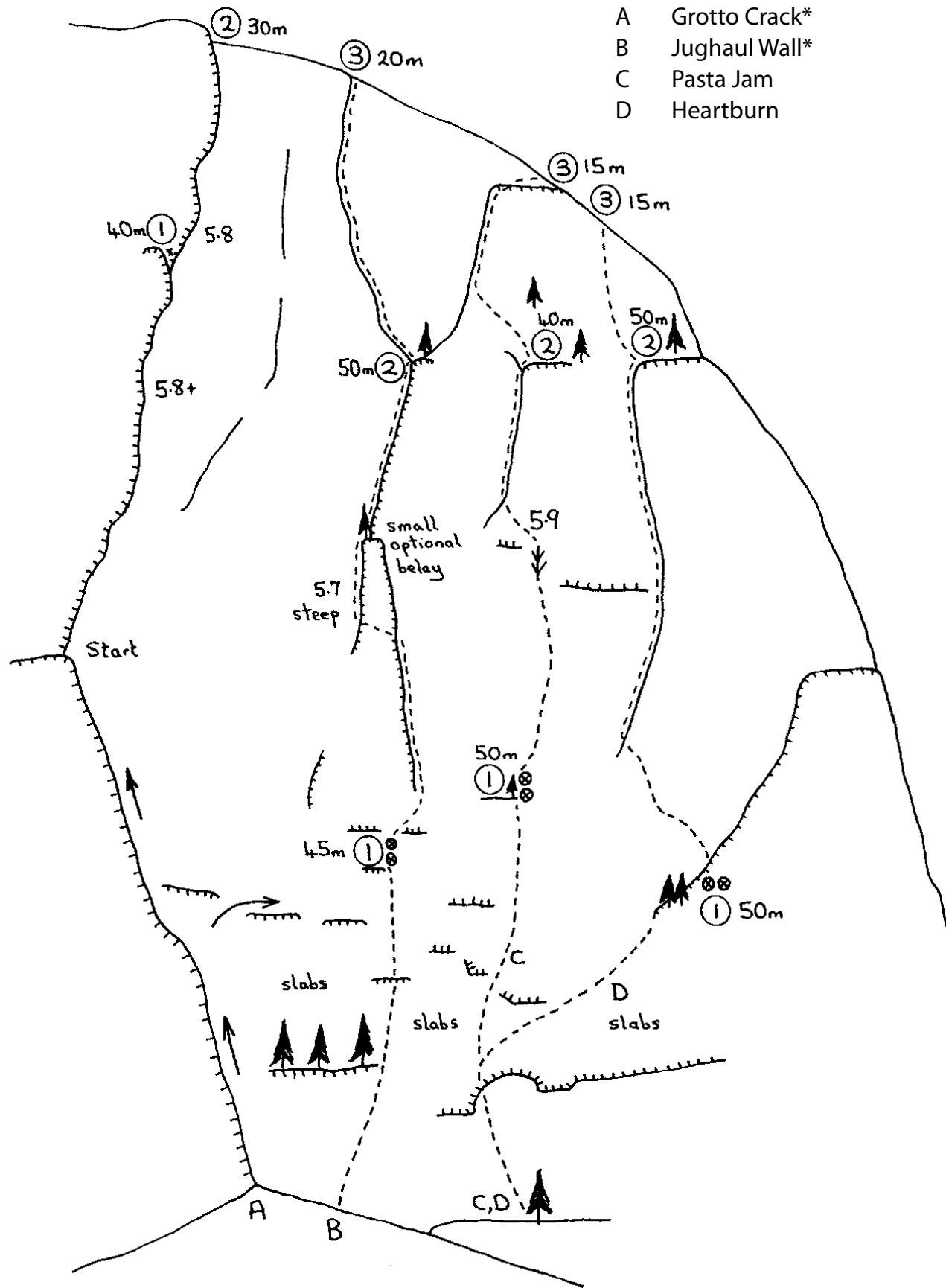
- 1) 40 m, 5.8+ Climb the crack to a piton belay in a scoop where the left wall eases.
- 2) 30 m, 5.8 Continue up the crack, which widens and becomes less difficult.

### Jughaul Wall\* 105 m, 5.7

M. Sawyer, J. Firth & C. Perry, June 1976

## GROTTO CORNER

- A Grotto Crack\*
- B Jughaul Wall\*
- C Pasta Jam
- D Heartburn



Nigel Hellewell climbing the first pitch of Grotto Crack.



This route follows an impressive line up the right wall of the corner and is much easier than it looks. Begin a short distance right of the lower corner, below easy-angled slabs.

- 1) 45 m, 5.5 Climb easily up and slightly right past the farthest right of three small trees to ledges level with and about 30 m right of the base of the crack. The ledges may also be reached by scrambling up to the base of the main corner and then moving out right. A faint crack system splits the steep wall above and leads up to a prominent tree. Climb up to a bolt belay below a small overlap.
- 2) 50 m, 5.7 Move up right over the overlap and climb the crack system, which is discontinuous, to where the wall steepens. Traverse left to another crack system that leads directly up to the tree. The section below the tree is very steep, but the holds are superb and the climb is technically easier than its grade. Continue up the groove above and belay at a second tree.
- 3) 20 m, 5.5 Move left and follow a crack system up the slabby wall to the top.

To the right of Jughaul Wall there are two thin crack systems, the right-hand of which leads up to a small tree on the edge of the wall at about two-thirds height. The right-hand crack begins up and left of a diagonal break, with two small trees, just above the lower slabby section. Heartburn climbs the right-hand crack and Pasta Jam climbs the one on the left.

#### Pasta Jam 105 m, 5.9

D. Bretzloff, B. Firth & J. Firth, 1996

The route climbs the crack between Jughaul Wall and Heartburn.

- 1) 50 m, 5.5 Beginning about 10 m right of Jughaul Wall, climb up through a circular break in the lower band of overlaps and continue up slabs to the base of the upper wall. Climb steepening rock to a bolt belay at a small ledge with a tiny bush below the upper crack line.
- 2) 40 m, 5.9 Climb the juggy wall trending left slightly toward an orange streak just to the right of the crack. Climb the crack and the wall to a bulge and then make difficult moves up and left to gain the upper crack. Follow this to a belay on the right.
- 3) 15 m Back left to easy rock and go up to the top.

#### Heartburn 115 m, 5.8

B. Firth, D. Bretzloff & J. Firth, 1996

- 1) 50 m, 5.5 Begin as for Pasta Jam and move farther right on easy ground to a bolt belay above two small trees in the obvious diagonal break below where the wall steepens.
- 2) 50 m, 5.8 Move right up the break for a short distance and then go up and left across the steep wall past a tiny bush to gain the thin crack. Follow this to a tree belay on the right edge of the wall.
- 3) 15 m, 5.6 Traverse back left onto the wall and go up to the top.

# CRAG X AND THE SOUTHEAST RIDGE

Crag X is located at the base of the southeast face of Grotto Mountain, near the mouth of Grotto Creek. It is visible from Highway 1A and can be reached in about 10-15 minutes. It is home to a number of routes, the best being Sideline and various bolted routes nearby. These climbs are described in the Sport Climbs guidebook by Martin and Jones. Not included in that guide, however, are a number of traditional climbs dating back to the mid '70s. These have rarely, if ever, been climbed in the last 25 years and this is not surprising given the quality of the rock. For more information, dig up a copy of the original Bow Valley Rock climbing guide—they are listed there. Until they see more traffic and/or serious cleaning, they are worth only a brief mention.

## Parking

Park at an unmarked designated parking area on the north side of Highway 1A near the railroad tracks and 300 m east of the Gap Lake boat launch and picnic area. In the spring, beware of massive numbers of wood ticks.

## Southeast Ridge of Grotto Mountain 5.7



The southeast face of Grotto Mountain with the southeast ridge on the right skyline.

D. Morrison & J. Tarrant, December 1955

This is the obvious line that rises cleanly from Crag X all the way to the summit ridge. Most of the ridge is quite straightforward and can be fourth classed. Near the top, however, there is a short rock step that is quite out of character with the rest of the ridge. The photograph shows the ridge on the right skyline and the unclimbed, and impressively steep, southeast face.

From the Crag X parking area, hike up the hillside directly behind the old mining shed to above Crag X and then onto the southeast shoulder. Stick to easy ground along the ridge until the crux rock band is reached near the top. Traverse onto the southeast face and move up to a ledge, below and left of the steep prow. From a belay here, climb up and make awkward moves (5.7) up and right across a steep wall to reach an easy groove on the left side of the prow (visible on photograph). Continue up to easy ground and the summit ridge.

Descent is most easily made by traversing the peak and following the normal hiking trail down to the ACC Clubhouse. The trail described as an alternative approach to Grotto Corner also leads to the summit of the mountain and could be used to descend closer to the starting point. This is not well-defined, however, and is less easily found from above.

## GROTTO CANYON

Grotto Canyon was the first sport climbing venue in the Canadian Rockies and it remains a popular destination. It was described in the original version of Bow Valley Rock but is now included in the Sport Climbs guidebook by Martin and Jones. Not included, however, is Armadillo Buttress, a relatively large cliff situated in the upper part of the canyon. This has two multi-pitch gear routes that are rarely done, but have something to offer the more experienced climber. The virtually unlimited big walls located high above the canyon above Armadillo Buttress are untouched and await the brave and adventurous!

### Approach

There is an unsigned parking area on the north side of Highway 1A 9.7 km east of the Trans-Canada overpass near Canmore or 4.6 km west of the bridge in Exshaw. Recent development of mining and manufacturing interests may compromise this access, but the issue has been rather uneventful to date. From a trail on the west end of the parking area, hike through trees directly to the canyon. If in doubt over access, park at the provincial parking lot near Grotto Pond another kilometre to the east. From here a well-marked trail leads into the canyon.

Stroll up Grotto Canyon past numerous sport climbing venues to a prominent fork. Go left and continue through a very narrow section to where the canyon opens up. A short distance past the small sport climbing crag Garden Rock, the trail passes within a few metres of a steep, high buttress on the left (west) side of the valley. This is Armadillo Buttress.

### Descent

Follow ledges down to the left. No rappel is necessary.

### No Place For A Friend 90 m, 5.9

R. Baillie & M. Toft, June 1983

This route climbs the left side of the buttress, passing a prominent treed ledge at just over half height. It features steep face climbing on generally good rock and has a fair amount of fixed gear. However, it is rarely climbed and the pitons should be viewed with caution. At present, a small selection of additional pitons is required for the belay at the top of pitch 2.

From where the trail comes closest to the buttress, walk left to the first large tree growing next to the rock (cairn).

- 1) 25 m, 5.7 Climb the steep face behind the tree, past a bolt, to a ledge. The ledge may also be reached by climbing a shattered break a few metres to the left. Move right and climb a shallow corner to a small roof (piton). Climb over the roof and continue on steep juggy rock to a small ledge with two bolts 7 m higher.
- 2) 25 m, 5.8 Move up, then traverse right to a bolt below and right of a short corner capped by an overhang. Move left and climb the overhang (two fixed pitons), continue straight up on steep rock to a small ledge (piton), climb up to easier ground, and then slant up left to a big ledge with a dead tree (pitons required for belay).
- 3) 40 m, 5.9 Move right for about 8 m to a small spruce tree and climb the left-facing corner above (piton). From the top of the corner, angle up left to a bolt and then move up and right to an alcove with a fixed piton. Continue up with difficulty to a bolt, then trend up left to a break in the line of roofs above. Step over the roof (piton) and continue up easier rock to large ledges.

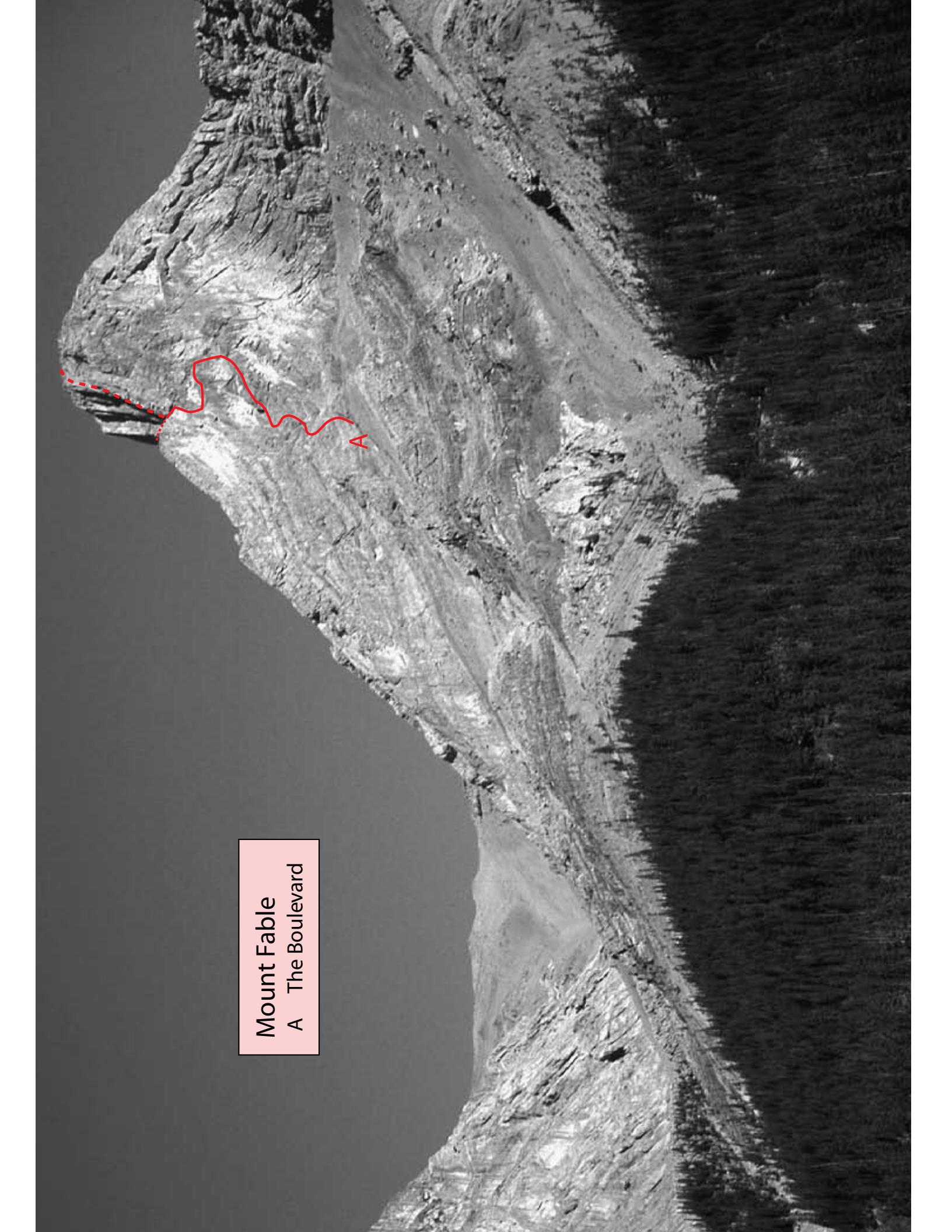
### Asylum 100 m, 5.10d

D. Morgan, C. Yonge & C. Perry, July 1984

This interesting route follows a prominent right-facing corner system up the front of the buttress. It is a good testing climb although the blocky corner on pitch 2 may be dangerously loose and demands extreme care. The climb is not recommended for inexperienced parties. Take a small selection of pitons and a hammer to test those in place.

Start below and left of the corner.

- 1) 35 m, 5.10d Climb up and then make a rising traverse right past several pitons to the foot of the corner. Climb the corner with difficulty (small wires) to a bolt stance above an easier section.
- 2) 30 m, 5.9 Continue with care directly up the blocky corner above to a large ledge and tree belay on the left.
- 3) 35 m, 5.8 Make a rising traverse up left following an obvious line of weakness to a small corner (piton), below the steep upper section. Move left and then climb directly up on surprisingly good holds to reach easier ground.



Mount Fable  
A The Boulevard

# MOUNT FABLE

Mount Fable is an impressive triangular peak situated in a side valley north of Exshaw. It is prominently visible from the town of Exshaw and from the Trans-Canada Highway just east of Heart Creek. There are three climbs on the mountain itself and two on a small slab of clean rock called Exshaw Slab situated below its south side. The mountain is quite remote and the three hour approach makes for a long day.

## Approach

Turn north off Highway 1A in the town of Exshaw and follow a road on the east side of Exshaw Creek through a residential district to a small parking area by a footbridge that crosses the creek. Go across the creek and head north up the valley, following a good trail for about 10 minutes to a concrete dam. Cross the stream and scramble around the dam on its easier right side. Above the dam, follow the creek on a good trail to a major side valley on the left that drains the south side of Mount Fable (about one hour). Turn left for all climbs, including those on Exshaw Slab.

## Exshaw Slabs

Approach From Exshaw Creek, continue along the side valley for about 15 minutes watching for a large cairn on the right about 100 m past a big treed slab. The slab is not visible at this point, but is only five minutes' walk uphill to the right (east) from the cairn.

The only routes established so far lie on the far right end of the outcrop, on a clean facet of rock to the right of a prominent right-facing corner.

**Strictly For Bolten** 22 m, 5.10a

J. Marshall & S. Stahl, 1984

This climbs the face immediately right of the prominent corner mentioned above. Climb up with difficulty past two bolts to a little tree. Continue past a fixed piton, step left to avoid a difficult section, and then move up and right to another bolt. Continue up and right to a fourth bolt and exit straight up. Alternatively, from the piton go straight up to the third bolt and continue directly to the top.

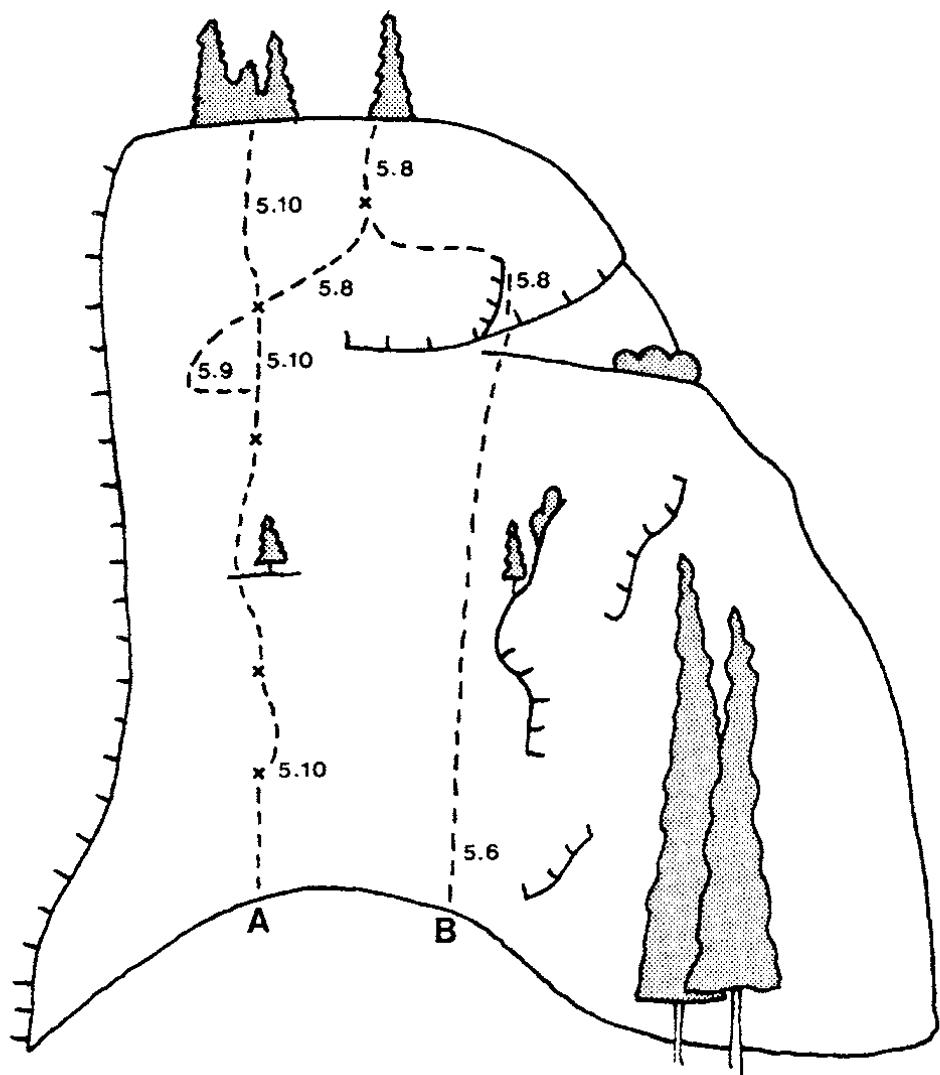
**Neandorcrawl** 22 m, 5.8

S. Stahl & S. Stahl, 1984

Start about 6 m right of Strictly For Bolten and climb straight up the slab, passing left of a small tree and shrub to a break below a small overhang. Climb a short, right-leaning corner, traverse left to the final bolt of Strictly For Bolten, and finish as for that route.

Opposite: Mount Fable with the southwest ridge on the left, The Boulevard (A) marked on the south face and the southeast ridge on the right.

## EXSHAW SLAB



A Strictly For Bolten  
B Neandorcrawl

5.10a  
5.8

fixed pro

Topo John Martin.

## Mount Fable

Two sharp ridges on the south side of the mountain provide classic routes to the summit. The impressive south face situated between the ridges is climbed by a more difficult route, The Boulevard.

Descent is down the standard west ridge route, which poses no significant difficulties apart from one narrow section near the top. Once at the col below the ridge, follow scree to the south into the side valley and hence to Exshaw Creek.

### Southwest Ridge 5.5

D. Gardner, C. Locke & G. Walsh, June 1964  
Direct Finish: G. Reisenhofer & party, 1996

Start Follow the side valley from Exshaw Creek until the base of the ridge is reached (about three hours from the car).

A choice of slabs is available for the first half of the climb. If the lowest is used, some difficulty will be found in switching to a higher one later on. The second to last slab provides a classic route with 6 pitches of continuous 5.3 climbing on excellent waterworn limestone. At the point where the lower slabs steepen to 60 degrees and the upper ones end, angle up and left into an obvious gully system. Climb to the highest good ledge and follow it rightward to within 5 m of the ridge crest. Follow a thin, diagonal crack for 30 m (5.5) to a ledge on the crest (piton). Continue up the left side of the ridge, becoming easier, to the end of the difficulties. A long easy ridge leads to the summit.

### Direct Finish 120 m, 5.9/10a

Where the lower slabs end and the normal route goes left, continue up and right to a long, right-facing corner leading directly up. Climb the corner in 3 pitches (off-width crux, #4 Camalot recommended) to reach easy ground leading up to the summit.

### The Boulevard 400 m, 5 10a

S. DeMaio (roped solo), May 1988

The Boulevard was established in an impressive solo effort, made over two days, and is the only route to date on the imposing south face of the mountain. It follows a circuitous line on the left side of the face and exits onto the southwest ridge. Being alone and at that point eager to be done with it, the first ascensionist avoided a steep corner leading from pitch 6 directly to the top of the face. He recommends this feature be climbed to give a more direct finish.

The climb has recently been repeated and the rock is reported to be a bit scruffy on the first two pitches, but becoming quite good higher up. Most of the climbing is moderate, with short and well-protected cruxes. Overall, it is an enjoyable rock climb to a scenic summit. There is very little fixed gear and a small selection of pitons is presently needed for protection and belays.

Start Approach as for the Southwest Ridge, but leave the drainage shortly before reaching the base of the ridge and scramble up and right to the start of the climb. Begin at a prominent ramp

system directly below a large cave about 70 m up the face.

- 1) 20 m, 5.5 Scramble up to a ledge below where the wall steepens (piton). Traverse right to a niche.
- 2) 50 m, 5.9 Climb out of the niche following a loose diagonal crack until it is possible to go straight up and then back right to the cave (piton). The cave was used as a bivouac on the first ascent.
- 3) 45 m, 5.6 Move out right from the cave and climb cracks. Continue up a ramp to its end.
- 4) 50 m, 5.6 Traverse right and down to another ramp and follow this to its end.
- 5) 35 m, 5.4 Step right and climb a slab until it is possible to move left and up onto a ledge.
- 6) 30 m, 5.4 Downclimb to a ledge on the left and walk to its left end.
- 7) 20 m, 5.10a Make an awkward step down and left into a clean right-facing corner. Climb the corner to a ledge on the left (bolt).
- 8) 30 m, 5.8 Follow a diagonal break up and right and continue up waterworn rock to a large ledge.

At this point several possibilities present themselves. For a challenging finish, walk 20 m left to a shoulder on the edge of the face and continue traversing on a wide scree ledge to the base of an obvious, right-facing corner (the Direct Finish to the Southwest Ridge route). Alternatively, continue traversing farther left and finish up the normal Southwest Ridge route. From the shoulder at the edge of the face it is possible to go up over a short step and continue directly up on excellent weathered rock (5.5) to the top of the face. A clean, right-facing corner 10 m right of the shoulder may be climbed for 25 m (5.7) until poor rock forces an exit left onto the ridge.

### Southeast Ridge 5.5

G. Kinnear & P. Spear, June 1963

**Start** From Exshaw Creek, follow the side valley for about half a kilometre and then head up through trees to a well-defined ridge that curves up to a large buttress at the beginning of the main ridge.

The initial buttress is climbed by working up diagonally right toward the top and then cutting back left to gain the main ridge. This long ridge is very exposed and sharp in places. Where the ridge steepens to join the main peak, move right and climb 5 pitches on smooth, down-sloping slabs. Regain the ridge 200 m from the top and continue more easily to the summit.

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